



*The Official Journal of the Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.*

**APRIL 1998**



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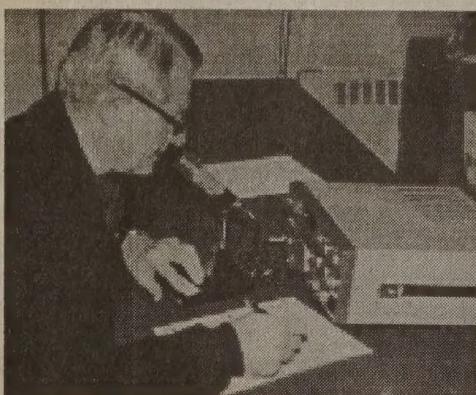
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# Regional Hamfests and Other Events

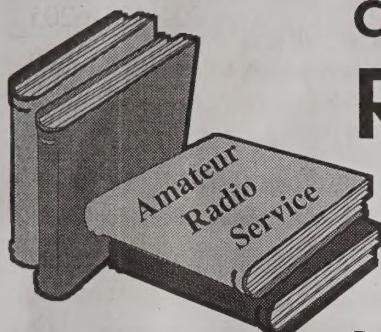
April 3-4	Southeastern VHF Conference, Atlanta, GA	404-875-9450
April 4	Catawba Valley Hamfest & Computer Fair, Morganton, NC	704-433-6205
April 4	Appalachian AR Group, Fredericksburg, PA	717-566-2606
April 5	North Carolina State Convention, Raleigh, NC	919-266-9335
April 25	Cherryville Repeater Assn., Harmony Twp., NJ	908-788-2644
April 25	Columbia-Montour ARC, Bloomsburg, PA	717-752-6851
May 2	Kent Island Hamfest, Graysonville, MD	
May 3	Hagerstown Hamfest, Antietam Radio Assn., Hagerstown, MD	304-728-7769
May 3	Metro 70cm Network, Yonkers, NJ	914-969-1053
May 3	Warminster ARC, Wrightstown (Bucks County), PA	215-674-5218
May 3	Jackson County ARC, Ripley, WV	304-372-2849
May 24	Memorial Day Hamfest, West Friendship, MD	301-879-2785
May 29-31	Atlantic Division Convention, Rochester, NJ	716-424-7184
June 7	Ole Virginia Hams ARC, Manassas, VA	703-369-2877
June 20	Raritan Valley RC, Dunellen, NJ	908-469-9009
June 20	East River ARC, Bluefield, WV	540-326-3338
June 21	Frederick ARC, Frederick, MD	301-865-0865
June 27-28	Field Day	
July 5	Murgas ARC, Wilkes-Barre (Dallas), PA	717-288-3532
July 12	Mid-Atlantic ARC, Kimberton, PA	610-293-1919
July 18	Cleveland Amateur Radio Club, Cleveland, TN	423-479-6260
July 24-25	Milton ARC, Milton, FL	850-626-7686
July 25	Western Carolina ARS, Waynesville, NC	704-258-2639
July 26	BRATS Hamfest, Timonium, MD	410-467-4634
August 1	High Point ARC, High Point, NC	910-887-3039
August 8	Tri-State ARA, Huntington, WV	304-743-9812
August 23	Yonkers ARC, Yonkers, NY	914-969-6548
August 30	Westchester Emergency Communications Assn., Yonkers, NY	914-741-6606
September 12	Saratoga County RACES Assn., Ballston Spa, NJ	
September 13	Delaware Valley Radio Assn., Trenton, NJ	609-882-2240
September 13	Butler County ARA, Butler, PA	412-282-6777
September 19	Western New York Section Convention, Hamburg (Buffalo), NY	716-424-7184



(Photo by Jim Wilson, K4BAV)

## On The Cover

Pictured on the cover of this month's issue of *Auto-Call* is George Coyne, N1BV of the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club. George operated the 40 meter phone during the club's special event station operation at Mount Vernon, Virginia during the weekend of February 14th and 15th.



# Rules and Regs

By Jack Kelleher  
W4ZC

## US TO PARTICIPATE IN CEPT GUEST LICENSE ARRANGEMENT (Tnx ARRL Ltr 17/7 2-13-98)

US amateurs soon will not need to apply for reciprocal licenses in order to operate during short visits to most European countries. While an official announcement still may be a few weeks away, it's been learned the US request to participate in the European guest license arrangement has been approved. Similarly, most European hams visiting the US no longer will have to submit FCC Form 610A.

Last September, the US State Department applied for US participation in the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Amateur Radio licensing system. A holders of a CEPT license can operate in CEPT-participating countries without having to apply for a reciprocal license.

Approval of the US request came in late January at a meeting of the CEPT Radio Regulatory Working Group (WGRR), in Groningen, The Netherlands. The European Radiocommunications Office (ERO) has been instructed to officially notify the FCC of the decision approving US participation.

The State Department's action came at the urging of the ARRL that the US take advantage of

the CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 arrangements and issue a license that would be recognized by CEPT-participating administrations and would be valid for brief visits.

Also last fall, the FCC proposed amending the Amateur Radio rules to make it easier for hams holding a CEPT license or an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) to operate during short visits to the US. Under the soon-to-be-implemented arrangement, a US Technician license would be recognized as a CEPT Class 2 (VHF-only) license, with full privileges above 30 MHz. Holders of Tech Plus through Extra tickets would be given a CEPT Class 1 license, with full privileges on HF and VHF. Novice licensees would not be eligible for a CEPT equivalent license since most CEPT countries don't offer a license of this type.

Once the ERO formally advises the FCC of the decision, the FCC must complete the steps to implement the participation before CEPT licensing can become effective.

"We've been urging the Commission to do this since 1991," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Now that CEPT has given the green light, we hope the FCC will step on the gas."

## FCC SEEKS TO STREAMLINE ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS.

This lead article in the March 1st W5YI Report highlights several ongoing FCC actions pertinent to a biennial review of all of its regulations applicable to licensees to determine whether certain rules are no longer necessary. The Communications act requires such a review in every even-numbered year, with the objective of eliminating or modifying regulations that are overly burdensome or no longer serve the public interest.

The FCC has released a list of 31 proposed initiatives to be explored as part of the 1998 review. One of these concerns the Amateur Service. The

*Continued on page 7*

# The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.



Washington, DC

## MEMBER CLUBS

Adams County Amateur Radio Society  
Alexandria Radio Club  
Amateur Radio Research and Develop. Corp.  
AMSAT - Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation  
Anne Arundel Radio Club  
Antietam Radio Association, Inc.  
ARINC Amateur Radio Club  
Arlington Amateur Radio Club  
Baltimore Amateur Radio Club  
Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society  
Calvert Amateur Radio Association  
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Capital Hill Amateur Radio Society  
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Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club  
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Cheese Hollow Amateur Radio Society  
Columbia Amateur Radio Association  
Culpeper Amateur Radio Association  
D-MARC - Digital Mid-Atlantic Radio Council  
Department of State Amateur Radio Club  
Dulles Amateur Radio Group  
Explorer Post #80- Amateur Radio  
Fauquier Amateur Radio Association  
Federal City REACT Amateur Radio Club  
Frederick Amateur Radio Club  
Frederick Amateur Repeater Group  
Goddard Amateur Radio Club  
Green Mountain Repeater Association  
Hanover Area Hamming Association  
Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club  
IBM Amateur Radio Club  
Johns Hopkins University APL ARC  
KB3BOI Repeater Group, Inc.  
Kent Island Amateur Radio Club  
Laurel Amateur Radio Club  
Leisure World Amateur Radio Club  
Loudoun Amateur Radio Group  
MD/DC MARS (Navy Marine) Association  
MADRAS  
Maryland Emergency Phone Net  
Maryland FM Association  
Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club

Mercury Amateur Radio Assn., NE Area  
Metropolitan Communications Network  
Metrovision Amateur TV Club  
Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn.  
Montgomery Amateur Radio Club  
Montgomery Auxiliary Communications Service  
Moose Amateur Radio Club  
Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club  
National Capitol ARES Council  
National Capitol DX Association  
Naval Research Laboratory Radio Club  
NOAA Amateur Radio Club  
North Point FM Association  
Northern Virginia FM Association  
Northern Virginia Radio Club  
Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club  
Opequon Radio Society  
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club  
Potomac Area VHF Society  
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Washington Chapter #23  
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Southern Patuxent Amateur Radio Club  
Stafford Amateur Radio Assn.  
Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club  
Summit Amateur Radio Association  
Tri-County Amateur Radio Club  
T-MARC, Middle Atlantic Repeater Council  
Vienna Wireless Society  
Voice of America Amateur Radio Club  
Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Assn.  
Washington Area Young Ladies ARC  
Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.

## NEXT FOUNDATION MEETING

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. meets at 8: p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. **Visitors are always welcome!** The next meeting will be held on April 8th in Takoma Park, Maryland at Columbia Union College, HMS Richards Bldg., Flower Avenue (Take beltway exit 30, South on Colesville Road to Franklin Avenue, left on Franklin to Flower, right on Flower to Carroll Ave., left on Carroll to Greenwood Ave., left on Greenwood to 2nd building on left.

Talk-in on  
**146.55**

FCC said that it was looking toward streamlining the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service Rules, and that it would "Seek comment on amending Parts, 0, 2 and 97 of the FCC Rules to privatize further the administration of the Amateur Radio Services and simplify the licensing process". (Part Ø of Title 47 (Telecommunication) on Commission Organization delegates all matters all matters pertaining to licensing to the Wireless Telecommunication Bureau, and says further that all application filing procedures for amateur radio operator licenses are set forth in Part 97. Part 1 on FCC Practice and Procedure, Section §1.912 requires that all applications requiring a license examination be submitted to volunteer Examiners) Deputy General Counsel David H. Solomon was appointed last fall to coordinate the review with assistance from Senior Managers from Bureaus and Offices. In a November 1997 press release the FCC said that "The Bureau/Office proposals will be presented to the Commission for consideration this winter and next spring, with proposals for final action to be presented to the Commission next summer and fall.

On January 21, 1998 the Wireless Telecommunication Bureau held a public forum focused on: Streamlining WTB data collection processes and application information; and modification of licensing rules to permit increased operational flexibility, to promote technical innovation, to develop workable sharing criteria, and to clarify the Commission's role in facilitating coordination among licensees.

The FCC said that beginning February 9, 1998, members of the public may send their suggestions regarding any proposed rule changes via e-mail to the following address: <[biennial@fcc.gov](mailto:biennial@fcc.gov)>.

#### **WRC-97 REVISITED (Tnx Amateur Radio Newsline)**

"WRC-97, An Amateur Radio Perspective", is the title of an excellent article By Larry Price, W4RA and Paul Rinaldo, W4RI appearing in the February issue of QST Magazine. The article

details the conference matters important to radio amateurs. It also explains why certain issues were or were not acted on by the worlds communications regulators.

Price and Rinaldo write from a perspective that only those attending the conference can share. Rinaldo was an actual member of the United States delegation while Price attended as Secretary of the International Amateur Radio Union. Their story is must reading for anyone truly interested in the future of Amateur Radio.

#### **NEXT HAM WRC (Tnx Amateur Radio Newsline)**

Meantime, there seems to be a bit of confusion as to when the World Radio Conference will next consider ham radio related issues. Most sources are saying 2002 but The Canadian Amateur newsletter says it will be in 2001. Other non ham radio sources are indicating a later date. They are saying not to look for any Amateur Radio related matters to be discussed by WRC until 2030 or 2035 at the earliest.

#### **CANADA CONSIDERING DELICENSING ITS AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE (Tnx W5YI Report Feb 1 1998)**

The January 1998 issue of The Canadian Amateur (the Journal of RAC, Canada's national ham radio society) reports that ham radio in Canada may be changing. Industry Canada is the federal telecommunications regulatory agency in Canada. For the past four years Industry Canada and the RAC had been collaborating on an initiative that would have ultimately turned administration of Canada's Amateur Radio Service over to the RAC. Within the past 60 days RAC was informed by Industry Canada that the agency was terminating the joint IC/RAC collaboration and had decided to retain management of the Service. RAC believes that allowing it to administer the Service would have greatly benefited Amateur Radio in Canada. The Amateur Delegation Working Group (ADWG)

*Continued next page*

is to be dissolved.

The news came as a complete shock to RAC and its officers do not know why the decision was made. It appears, however, that the Canadian Government is on a cost-cutting campaign. One way to save money would be NOT to issue individual licenses to its radio amateurs. This is confusing since Canadian Amateurs pay a licensing fee.

RAC has contributed thousands of unpaid hours to the project and said it "will be meeting further with Industry Canada concerning the summary termination and will provide further information to Canadian Radio Amateurs as it becomes available". Meanwhile, Industry Canada contracted with a commercial research firm to obtain opinions from a small sample of 300 Canadian amateurs concerning ham radio licensing and certification (qualifications).

The sample represents less than 1% of Canada's 45,000 licensed ham operators, only 20% of which belong to RAC. RAC does not believe that the poll could possibly be representative of their Amateur community and feels that the five questions asked in the poll are worded so as to obtain a certain answer. A transcript of the IC poll wording appeared in the January 1998 "Canadian Amateur". It was apparently conducted by telephone early in December 1997.

#### **SUCCESSFUL ARRL PETITION TO NTIA (Tnx ARN 1070 2-13-98)**

The American Radio Relay League has successfully petitioned the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in hope of gaining that agency's support for a new ham band at 160 to 190 kilohertz. The NTIA says it has no objections to United States radio amateurs being given access to this very low frequency band and will support its creation.

#### **WISCONSIN ANTI MOBILE LAW DIES IN ASSEMBLY (Tnx ARN #1070, 2-13-98)**

Some good news for hams living in Wisconsin.

The threat of a new state law that would ban the mobile in motion use of two way radio equipment has ended. At least it has ended for now.

Smoke Signals newsletter editor Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, tells Newsline that Wisconsin Assembly Bill 754 is basically a dead issue. Romelfanger says that he spoke with one of its sponsors and learned that it has not even had a hearing let alone been reported out of committee. Jim says that with only a few days left to this year's Wisconsin Assembly session, that there is no way for AB 754 to become Wisconsin state law.

AB 754 was primarily aimed at curbing automobile accidents due to inattentive cellular telephone users. Unfortunately for hams, the wording of the measure encompassed all forms of mobile radio communications. Its backers are expected to try to pass it again in the next Assembly session. Meantime hams now have a chance to build a solid opposition to it or at least demand an exemption for licensed radio amateurs.

#### **SOUTH AFRICA CEPT (Tnx ARN #1070)**

South African hams will soon be able to operate in CEPT signatory countries without the need of acquiring a guest license. This, according to SATRA, the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority which says that it has received Confirmation from the European Radio Communication Office, that South Africa has been accepted as a signatory to and participant in the CEPT common amateur radio license. The agreement follows several years of negotiation with both the South African Authorities and the CEPT by the South Africa Radio League, with the assistance of the IARU Common License Group.

#### **FCC PREPARES FOR WRC 2000**

The Federal Communications Commission hosted a World Radiocommunications Conference planning session on February 10th. Called WRC 2000, the purpose of this gathering was to establish

very broad basic guidelines for U.S. participation in this upcoming frequency allocation assembly. This Washington, DC meeting was hosted by the FCC's International Bureau's Planning and Negotiations Division.

### TOWER LAW SUCCESS: CHALK ONE UP FOR AMATEUR RADIO (Tnx ARRL Ltr 17/6 2-1-98)

Hams in Mason County, Washington, won't be encumbered by a telecommunications ordinance that would have restricted the height of ham radio towers to 70 feet and imposed other regulations. Andrew Forsberg, WV7M, of Grapeview, reports that several hams in the largely rural Western Washington county (population approximately 30,000) cited federal preemption over local regulation of Amateur Radio activities as well as the hobby's public service dimension to get the County Board of Commissioners to exclude ham radio from the new law last month.

Forsberg says that, as originally drafted, not only would tower heights have been limited to 70 feet, but building-mounted towers could not have been more than 20 feet tall. It also would have held the height of vertical antennas (called "whips" in the proposed regulations) to 15 feet. In addition, the proposed law would have required landscaping to hide a tower and lot setbacks equal to a tower's height—something often impossible on a small, residential lot.

Forsberg said that, at first, the drafters of the new ordinance "seemed to be unmoved by Amateur Radio considerations." In addition to federal preemption, the county hams pointed out the connection between a good antenna system and ham radio's public service contributions—in an area subject to floods, earthquakes, power outages during winter storms, and even volcanic activity). Commissioners "began to soften their position," Forsberg said.

"By the time the vote was taken, the commissioners were well-informed of our position and were commending Amateur Radio for its

outstanding contributions to the community," he said.

### VIRGINIA HAMS ASKED TO RALLY BEHIND TOWER BILL (ARRL LTR 17/6 2-6-98)

Hams in Virginia are being asked to rally behind a statewide bill to regulate the placement of Amateur Radio antennas. The measure, Senate Bill 480 (SB 480) was introduced January 26 by State Senator John Edwards of Roanoke. The bill would amend the Code of Virginia to include the essence of the PRB-1 federal preemption. It would require local ordinances involving the placement, screening, or height of antennas to "reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio antennas" and "impose the minimum regulation necessary."

The bill—if approved by the Virginia General Assembly—would prohibit localities from restricting ham antennas to less than 200 feet above ground, restricting the number of support structures, or requiring restrictive variances "beyond reasonable and customary engineering practices" unless the antenna "clearly represents an unreasonable risk to human health or life."

Bob Ham, KK4IY, says hams can track the progress of the bill at <http://leg1.state.va.us/981/bil.htm> (enter "sb480" at the prompt). Hams can voice an opinion on the bill by calling 800-889-0229 and leaving a message for their Delegate or Senator.—thanks to Frank Mackey, K4EC, Bob Cecil, WB3S, and Bob Ham, KK4IY.

**Chapter X**

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# American Radio Relay League Report

By John Swafford,  
W4HU

*The purpose of the ARRL Report is to provide the essential news of interest to active, organizationally minded radio amateurs faster than it can be disseminated by our official Journal QST. We strive to be fast, accurate and readable in our reporting. Material from the ARRL Report may be reproduced in whole or in part in any form including photo reproduction and electronic data banks, provided that credit is given to The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League.*

## SAREX TO BE ON JOHN GLENN FLIGHT

A ham radio package will be aboard the shuttle flight that carries US Senator and astronaut John Glenn into space this fall. Work from NASA this week was that the Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment or SAREX payload would be carried on STS-95 when it flies in October carrying the 77-year-old space pioneer into orbit for the first time since the early 1960s, when Glenn became the first US astronaut to orbit the Earth.

Two hams—US Astronaut Scott Parazynski, KC5RSY, and European Space Agency astronaut Pedro Duque, KC5RGG, of Spain—will be among an international crew aboard STS-95.

The Launch date for the only other SAREX mission scheduled for 1998—STS-93—has slipped from August to December. Glenn already has

begun his astronaut training, but it's not yet known if he plans to get his ham ticket before his return to space.

## MIR RESUMES SCHOOL CONTACTS

It's been a long, dry spell for schools that have been waiting for a chance to have their students talk to Mir. But that drought has ended.

Amateur Radio contacts between the Russian Mir space station and schools—on hold since a series of problems plagued Mir last year—resumed this week. Aboard Mir, US astronaut Andy Thomas, KD5CHF, spoke with youngsters at schools in California, Colorado, and South Carolina.

Another Mir contact with a school in Wyoming is set for March 3, and additional Mir-school contacts are in the works, possibly for later in March.

On February 23, Thomas spoke with youngsters at Shell Beach Elementary School in Pismo Beach, California. The pupils got to ask Thomas 10 questions during the 10-minute contact—made possible through a telebridge connection via W5RRR at Johnson Space Center in Texas.

AMSAT Technical Mentor Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, said the children practiced their on-the-air performance several times during the previous week until they had it just right. "After the session with Andy, the kids were very excited," he said. More than 125 other pupils and adults were on hand at the school during the contact, which was covered by local news media.

The following day, February 24, ten equally excited kids at Prairie Hills Elementary School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, got their chance to speak with Thomas via WA0VTU, the club station of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association.

As an audience of around 350—including TV

and newspaper reporters—looked on and listened in. Thomas described his activities on Mir and answered six questions. A local repeater retransmitted both sides of the contact. Signals were reported generally good but with static.

On February 26, pupils at Buist Academy in Charleston, South Carolina, fired off a dozen questions. Thomas—using his Australian-issued VK5MIR call sign for the telebridge contact via VK5AGR—managed to answer 11 of them during the 10-minute contact.

In one answer, Thomas spoke of the importance for those in space to have radio contact with Earth to keep in touch with friends and family (he expressed similar sentiments during a NASA press conference where he extolled ham radio as immensely helpful in combating the loneliness of space flight).

In answering another question about the value of international cooperation in space exploration, Thomas declared, "Space doesn't belong to any one country. We have to share it." An audience of approximately 50 people, including new media, was on hand for the contact.

### HAMS HELP IN AFTERMATH OF FLORIDA TORNADOES

Hams pitched in to help in the aftermath of intense storms and tornadoes in Central Florida that killed more than three dozen and injured hundreds of others. The tornadoes and heavy thunderstorms struck early Monday while most people were asleep, surprising the residents of the affected areas between Daytona Beach and Orlando,

Many were left homeless by the storms, now being called the deadliest and most destructive in Florida's recorded history. Weather observers blamed the tornadoes on the El Nino Weather system. Some families lost their homes and everything they owned.

In one tragic incident, a tornado wrenched an

18-month old toddler out to its father's arms; the child later was found dead. In another miraculous one, the storm picked up a youngster on his mattress and placed him gently on an oak tree.

### SECTION MANAGERS ELECTED

Virginia will get a new section manager, while incumbent section managers were returned to office in five other sections. In the Virginia Section, Lynn Gahagan, AF4CD, of Chesapeake outpolled Lawrence Macionski, W8LM, of Bluemont 1256 to 579. Gahagan will succeed current Section Manager Chris Wright, KD4TZN, of Rocky Mount.

In the Eastern Pennsylvania Section, incumbent SM Allen Breiner, W3TI, of Tamaqua defeated Robert Stanhope, KB3YS, of York 950 to 760.

Terms for successful candidates begin April 1, 1998.

### NEW ARRL BOOK—RF EXPOSURE AND YOU—NOW AVAILABLE

If you're worried about how to comply with the new RF exposure requirements, then you'll want a copy of the new ARRL book *RF Exposure and You* by ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI. *RF Exposure and You* became available just this week.

As ARRL Executive Vice President Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, put it: "The new RF exposure rules are now a part of the regulatory landscape and are likely to remain so." *RF Exposure and You* is the best way available to ease the transition, Sumner said.

This book communicates one simple message: For the vast majority of Amateur Radio operators, the RF exposure rules are not difficult to understand and follow. At 320 pages, *RF Exposure and You* contains all the background information, suggestions and worksheets you'll need to help you

*Continued next page*

comply with the new RF exposure rules and to operate your station legally and safely.

Hare said that preparing the book was "a real challenge and a real collective effort." The result is a book that's probably the first of its kind. "I have never seen this information pulled together in one place before," he said. ARRL Headquarters staff and volunteers (including the ARRL RF Safety Committee) participated fully with the FCC as the Commission determined the best advice to give amateurs on how to meet the new requirements. The League was able to persuade the FCC to reconsider its rules, and to rewrite them so that amateurs would be less affected. Hare says it took a lot of teamwork between Headquarters staff and outside volunteers to have the book printed and available in just three months.

A.J. Kruger, K7CMM, of Arizona, placed the first advance order for RF Exposure and You early this year. This week, Hare personally autographed the first copy out of the box—indicating it was the first copy purchased from ARRL Headquarters. The order went out this week.

RF Exposure and You is \$15 (plus shipping and handling). Order Item #6621. To order your copy, visit your local Amateur Radio retailer or the ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/6621>, or call toll-free 888 277-5289.

### IRIS COLVIN, W6QL, SK

The other half of the world-famous Colvin DXpedition team, Iris Colvin, W6QL, of Richmond, California, died February 18 at her home. She was 83. Iris Colvin was first licensed in 1945. She and her late husband, Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, traveled the world between the 1960s and the early 1990s, operating from more than 100 DXCC countries. Lloyd Colvin died in 1993. The couple had been married for 55 years.

### IN BRIEF:

\* K0OV tapped as ARRL ARDF Coordinator:

Joe Moell, K0OV has been appointed as the first ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator. At its last meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors authorized creation of the volunteer position to promote ARDF activities in IARU Region 2 as one means to involve youth in the hobby. The ARDF Coordinator will promote ham radio direction-finding activities and report regularly to the Board.

\* SG-2020 debut delayed: SGC reports via its Web site, <http://www.sgcworld.com/sg2020.html>, that deliveries of its long-awaited SG-2020 low-power HF transceiver will not begin until mid-March. Initial production will cover back-ordered units. New orders won't be available from dealers until after May 1. The SG-2020, based on the design of the popular Index Laboratories QRP Plus transceiver—now out of production—was originally scheduled to be on the market last fall. That date subsequently slipped to January. By way of explaining the delay, SGC says it's improved the SG-2020's technical specs "to deliver enhanced performance."

\* Free SWL contest logger available: A free SWL logger program, SDL (Super-Duper for Listeners), is now available. SDL is a comprehensive MS-DOS HF contest logger for SWLs. It's derived from SD and shares all its relevant features. SDL offers direct support for most international contests. Some 35 country and area multiplier reference files are supplied. SDL links to Kenwood and Yaesu radios to follow band and mode changes. It offers fast, simple logging and editing, and it tracks multipliers, dupes and points in real time. It is not designed for post-contest logging, however. SDL runs under MS-DOS or in a DOS window with Windows 3.11, 95 or NT. SDL may be downloaded from <http://ve7tcp.ampr.org/ftp/software/sd>. SSDLCHECK, a post-contest program to edit SDL files and to generate printed lots, multiplier lists, check sheets and summary sheets. An SDL reflector also is available. To subscribe, send e-mail to [majordomo@blacksheep.org](mailto:majordomo@blacksheep.org) with the message

*Continued next page*

"subscribe sd-user"—Paul O'Kane, EI5DI

New Satellite Handbook available: The ARRL's new Radio Amateur's Satellite Handbook by Martin Davidoff, K2UBC is off the press. This brand-new edition contains valuable information on satellite operating, types of antennas (including how-to articles on building your own), software, satellite Internet sites, profiles of all the current active satellites and much more.

This new edition includes 376 pages of information, such as getting ready for the new

Phase 3D satellite and information about Amateur Radio operation from the US space shuttles (SAREX) and the Russian Mir space station. It contains thorough appendices covering profiles of computer programs, Internet sites, FCC Rules, and a complete history of amateur satellite and space operations. The new Radio Amateur's Satellite Handbook is available from ARRL Publications. Order Item #6583. It's \$22 (plus shipping and handling). To order your copy, visit your local Amateur Radio retailer or the ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/6583>, or call toll-free 888-277-5289.



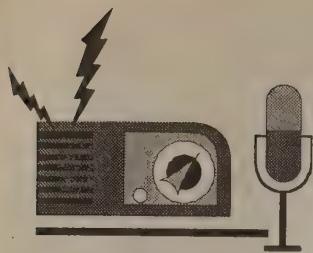
## FAR SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer sixty-six (66) scholarships for the academic year 1997-1998 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds nine of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-seven (57) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1998 from:

FAR Scholarships  
6903 Rhode Island Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740



## DX DX DX

By John Kanode,  
N4MM

### THE NEW DXCC CHALLENGE PROGRAM

When the DXCC 2000 Program was approved in January, a new aspect was added to the DXCC Program. It is called the DXCC 2000 Challenge Award. When the additional band awards for 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters are implemented and significant time allowed for all to get credits recorded, this new part of the DXCC program will be started.

The way it will work is that the total from each band, less any deleted countries will be added together to determine your DXCC 2000 Challenge total. All bands from 160 through 6 meters, except for 30 meters will be used.

The reason for 30 meters not counting is due to an IARU agreement which states that no new awards that emphasize 30 meters shall be created. The unusual sharing situation that the Amateur Radio Service has on this band lead to this decision by the IARU many years ago.

In the new DXCC 2000 Challenge Program, there will be four levels of achievement. Awards will be given to those who reach the 1000, 1500, 2000 and 2500 country levels.

There will be proper recognition given to those in QST and the DXCC Yearbook who achieve these levels. The highest overall scorer for each year will be eligible to receive the Clinton B. DeSoto Cup.

Over the next year, the final details and implementation schedule for these new DXCC

awards will be completed by the Membership Services Committee, which is a standing committee of the ARRL Board of Directors.

The existing DXCC Field Representative Program will have to be modified to allow more of the QSL card verification to take place in the field. QSL verification at ARRL HQ is a very expensive process both to the League and to the members who participate in the program.

One of the reasons for this new program is to encourage amateurs to make more use of all the MF, HF and VHF bands. It is hoped that this new program will be ready in the next two years.

Once the Membership Services Committee meets and determines the implementation schedule, we will have a better view on when things will take place.

An ARRL Board motion made in January requires that this schedule be presented in July for consideration.

### UPCOMING DX CONTESTS

SP DX Contest	April 4-5, 1998
EA ATTY Contest	April 4-5, 1998
Japan Int'l DX, High Band	April 10-12, 1998
Helvetia Contest (H89)	April 25-26, 1998

### TIDBITS

The UBA is offering a 50th anniversary award. One must earn 50 points by contacting Belgian amateurs in 1998. Club stations will be using the special prefix, ON50 and they count 4 points. All other ON stations count 2 points.

To get this very nice award, send a GCR list and a fee of \$5.00 to Danny Commeyne, ON40N, Rozenlaan 38, 8890 Dadizele, Belgium.

*Continued next page*

There will be a major DXpedition to St. Brandon (3B7) from May 6 to May 17, 1998. It will be a four station all band mode operation.

New DX World Guide Book by Frank Langer, OJ9ZB is now available. It contains 354 pages of DX related info with maps, QSL Bureaus, IOTA, DXCC info, licensing authorities, etc.

It is available from the publisher for US \$25.00 postpaid. Orders go to Joe Kraft, DL8HC2, Gruetzmuehlenweg 23, D-22339, Hamburg, Germany.

The Southwest Ohio DX Association has announced that tickets for the Thirteenth Annual DX Dinner are available.

It will be held on Friday, May 15 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dayton, Ohio. The cash bar opens at 6:30 and dinner at 7:15. Tickets are \$30.00 and can be ordered from Tom Inglin, KR8Z, 4061 Eaton Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

Seats will be assigned in the order that requests are received. Please make checks out to SWODXA and include a SASE.

## NAVY TRANSMITTING FACILITY TOUR

Arrangements are being made to allow interested hams to tour the Navy Transmitting Facility (NSS Annapolis). The tentative date is Saturday, April 18. Check the Anne Arundel Radio Club home page (<http://www.mindspring.com/~coriolis.aarc.html>) for confirmation and more details as the date approaches.

Most hams who live in the Annapolis area, or who have crossed the Bay Bridge on Route 50 are familiar with the Navy's Greenbury Point antenna farm from a distance, but few have been able to visit.

The Transmitting Facility area was off limits for security reasons until the facility went off the air in January, 1995. The 1,299 foot tower and all the lower towers are scheduled to be taken down over the next few years. Plans call for the transmitting equipment to be removed later this year.

On April 18 you can tour the inside of the transmitter building where you will see the huge hand-blown vacuum tubes, the room which is actually a gigantic capacitor, the hand-

crafted wooden equipment frames and all the other equipment which made this one of the world's most powerful radio transmitters.

Some of the operators who were responsible for keeping this facility on the air around the clock will be back to explain the setup and equipment to you. John Cummings, N3ZCE (410 293-6903) is coordinating this tour with transmitter facility staff.

Directions: Take Rt 50 toward Annapolis. At exit 27 follow Rt. 450 south toward the Naval Academy for one mile. Turn left on Rt. 648 (at the north end of the Naval Academy Bridge). Stay on Rt. 648 through the signal light and past the Naval Academy Golf Course. At the empty guard house continue on for another half mile. The transmitter building is the large brick building at the end of the road.

NOTE: Please do not attempt to visit the towers or transmitter facility on your own. Naval Academy Police do not permit public access to this area.

John Cummings, N3ZCE

# APRS FREQUENCY TO CHANGE

The SKYWARN Technical Committee working in conjunction with the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Mt. Holly, NJ met on February 18th to discuss the migration of the APRS frequency.

While the committee does not speak for the entire APRS community in New Jersey and the surrounding sections of Pennsylvania, Delaware and Eastern Maryland, they do support the proposal to move the APRS frequency.

The reason for the change is do to that fact that the frequency is close to the AMSAT frequency of 145.80 and the Technical Committee recommends that the APRS frequency QSY from 145.790 MHz to 144.390 MHz. The benefits of the change outweigh any of the negatives that have been raised. The change over will occur over the weekend of April 5 and 6 unless severe weather threatens the area. Any change from the April dates

will be sent via APRS, Packet, the Hudson Loop, the APRS listserver, local nets and club newsletters.

The SKYWARN Technical Committee has worked long and hard to provide the direction needed to make the APRS Network serving the 34 counties in the Mt. Holly County Warning Area a reliable communications resource. We thank all the Amateur Radio Clubs and individual operators who have contributed to this effort. Together, we are making a difference and fulfilling the mandate of Part 97 to provide Public and Emergency Communications services to this area.

' 73, Robert Hill, N3OFZ

Chairman, SKYWARN Technical Committee,  
NWSFO Mt. Holly, NJ

Steve Oliphant - N2KBD, EMT-D

Asst. SEC - ARRL/Hudson Div./NNJ for  
SKYWARN



## National Capital ARES Council Public Service Calendar

Sat	Apr 11	Cherry Blossom Parade - DC - N3RPQ
Sat	Apr 18	Multiple Sclerosis Walkathon - Reston - KC4RON
Sat	Apr 18	Bull Run Run - KC4RON
Sun	Apr 19	George Washington Parkway 15K - K3IZ
Sat	Apr 25	EMS Mass Casualty Drill - N4ZGI
Sun	Apr 26	March of Dimes Walkathon - Leesburg - KD4DGQ
F/S/S	May 15/16/17	Dayton Hamvention
Sun	May 17	Crystal City 10K - Arlington - KD4FRK
F/Su	May 29-31	Atlantic Division Convention - Rochester, NY
Sat	Jun 13	ARES Institute - N4ZGI
S/S	Jun 27/28	ARRL Field Day
Sat	Jul 4	4th Of July - Lee District Park - K3IZ
S/S	Sep 19/20	Roanoke Division Convention - Virginia Beach
S/S	Oct 3/4	ARRL Simulated Emergency Test
Sun	Oct 25	Marine Corps Marathon - N4ZGI
Thu	Dec 31	Alexandria First Night

# FAR Meeting Minutes

February 11, 1998  
Takoma Park, MD



FAR President, Chuck Sommer (N4OSD), called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, MD.

The attendees introduced themselves. There were 19 trustees and 2 guests in attendance representing 22 member organizations. They were:

Chuck Sommer, N4OSD  
PG Co RACES/ARES  
Charles Johnson N3HFO  
AARC & NVFMA  
Ken Easton, K3HLY  
PGWA & GMRA  
W. Joe Saunders K3UAL  
CCARS & Metropolitan Com. Network  
W. Page Pyne WA3EOP  
C.H.A.R.S. & Antietam RA  
Jim Headrick W3CP  
PVRC & NRL ARC  
Tim Dugan, KA3YYP  
MD/DC MARS Assoc.  
Bill Ziegler, KA6TYY  
Guest  
Jerry Gavin, NU3D  
MD Mobileers ARC  
Mary Morris, N4TCI  
Mt Vernon ARC  
Lenny Schachter N3RPQ  
MADRAS & Natl Cap ARES Cncl  
Hugh Turnbull W3ABC  
FAR VP - Scholarship Committee  
Hugh O'Donnell W3FUO  
Guest  
John Sleeman N3FXC  
Washington Adventists ARC  
Hugh Katz, KB3TB  
Voice of America ARC  
Tony Young, WA3YLO  
Anne Arundel RC

Roy Bates, N2CSQ/3  
MADRA  
Don Blasberg KA8YPY  
Laurel ARC  
Larry Solarczyk WX3F  
Carroll County ARC  
Tony Krauth, KF3AK  
Carroll County ARC  
Jeanne Rexroad N4ZGI  
Mt Vernon ARC & NCAC

Al Brown (KZ3AB) was absent so there was no Secretary's report.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Charles Johnson (N3HFO) and accepted.

Auto Call - Tony Young (WA3YLO) stated that the list of new subscribers in honor of Ethel Smith was posted in the February Auto-Call.

Survivor's Assistance - Tony Young (WA3YLO) reported that he picked up a few items but had little to sell.

Tony Young (WA3YLO) presented Anne Arundel RC's Certificate of Appreciation award to Charles Johnson (N3HFO).

Scholarship Committee - Hugh Turnbull (W3ABC) reported that there are 135 applications for scholarships. Requests for applications are coming in by mail and email. Fiscal year 1997 records are complete except for interest reported in February, 98. Auto-Call will publish the Scholarship press release in the March issue.

ARRL - Hugh Turnbull (W3ABC) stated that the new FCC-610 forms went into effect January 1, 1998. For renewals and change of address. The form may be filed on line. The ARRL is setting up a task force to get rules enforced. The Atlantic Division Director sent a letter to her division's clubs about club programs. Johnny Johnson retired, Bill Cross will pick up his work load.

*Continued next page*

FARFest - Chuck Sommer (N4OSD) announced the next FARFest meeting, at Mary Morris' (N4TCI) home at 7 p.m., Wednesday, February 18. Contact her at 703-971-3905 or n4tci@erols.com for directions.

The Foundation has an e-mail address (amateur\_radio@hotmail.com).

1999 FARFest Location - Chuck Sommer announced that the FARFest committee looked at a new site for 1999's FARFest. This location is the Prince George's County Stadium [home of the Bowie Baysox class-A Baltimore Orioles baseball team]. The big advantage to this location is cost. One day's rental at this location is approximately \$2,500. The Gaithersburg site rents for \$11,000. Other advantages are paved parking, clearly marked spaces for tailgaters, convenient handicap spaces, better traffic control, and the possibility of getting a five year renewable contract. If this location is chosen for 1999, the date will be the last [full weekend] in September; 25-September, 1999. More information and aerial view of the location will be available at the next meeting. Hugh Turnbull (W3ABC) suggested FAR get in touch with the Atlantic Division Director as soon as possible to clear this date.

Nominating Committee - Chuck Sommer appointed Don Blasberg (KA8YPY) of Laurel ARC and Lenny Schachter (N3RPQ), of MADRAS & Natl Cap ARES Cncl to the nominating committee.

Maryland Mobileers ARC representative Bill Ziegler(KA6TYY) presented the Mobileers scholarship check to Chuck Sommer, president of the Foundation.

#### Announcements:

Goddard ARC is setting up an amateur radio club at DeVal High School. DeVal has an aerospace program that uses amateur radio for communications with the astronauts. The club is seeking equipment, technical help and Elmers for the new radio club. Equipment donations are tax

deductible. Contact Robert DiRosario, KA3ZYX, at 301-794-1062; or Hugh O'Donnell, W3FUO, at 301-286-7684 about donations of time and equipment.

Next ARES institute will be June 13, in Falls Church.

Volunteers are needed for the St. Patrick's parade in Alexandria. Contact Rick, KA4GFY, at 703-644-3920.

A motion to adjourn was passed at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held in Virginia at 8:00 p.m. on 11-March.

Submitted by:  
Mary Morris, N4TCI, Acting Secretary  
Foundation for Amateur Radio

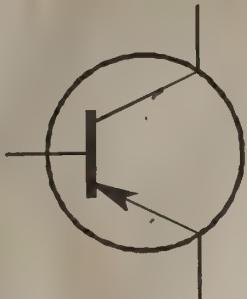


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# Amateur Radio Training

John Forrest WZ4A

6111 Burnett St., Alexandria, VA 22310

(703)971-3905

Please send announcements for training classes and club training contacts to WZ4A at the above address. Deadline is the 25th of the 2nd month prior to the *Auto Call* publication date (e.g., 25 December for the February issue).

## Club Training Contacts

Alexandria RC	Rich Adamy KA4GFY	(703) 644-3920
Anne Arundel RC	Tony Young WA3YLO	(301) 262-1917
Arlington ARC	Mike Callaham NW3V	(703) 241-5618
Antietam Radio Assn.	Robert Long KD3JK	(301) 824-5132
BRATS (Baltimore)	Joe Chidester W3SHZ	(410) 602-0353
Baltimore ARC	HAM-TALK, BARC Voice Mail	(410) HAM-TALK x3835
Central MD ARC	Jim Tilton KD3JA	(301) 552-0012
Dulles ARG	Michael Weber WB8RDN	(703) 450-2304
Fauquier ARC	Neil Spokes AB4YK	(540) 364-3861
Frederick ARC	Hal Silverman W3HWC	(301) 831-7946
Historical Electronics ARC	Rol Anders K3RA	(410) 969-0410
Laurel ARC	Pud Reaver W3YD	(301) 498-6293
Mid-Atlantic DX Assn.	Michael Vaia, WB8VBW	(301) 738-3861
Madras	Larry Ziecheck, N3GKZ	(301) 984-6113
MD Mobileers ARC	Bruce Colburn AA3KR	(410) 437-1891
Montgomery ARC	Rocky Jones KC4UXO	(301) 216-5210
Mt. Vernon ARC	John Forrest WZ4A	(703) 971-3905
NASA/Goddard ARC	Vikki Gigante KA3PVS	(301) 249-2609
Ole VA Hams ARC	Charles Dale WA4YGI	(703) 361-3091
Pentagon ARC	David Boyd K9MX	(540) 659-6241
St. Marys Co. ARC	Peter Butt WA3UMY	(301) 862-2214
Shenandoah Val ARC	Godfrey Miller N8GM	(540) 877-2607
Southern MD ARC	Vic Curtis WA3YUV	(301) 888-1388
Southern Pax ARC	Dwayne Kincaid WD8OYG	(410) 586-2177
Stafford Adult Ed	Jerry Mullinix AC4HK	(540) 659-3905
Sterling Park ARC	Forrest Snyder N4UTY	(703) 430-4149
Tri-County ARC	John Creel WB3GXW	(301) 572-5124
Vienna Wireless	Kerry Kingham, WA4BQM	(703) 691-2719
Woodbridge Wireless	Jim Duffey WD4AIR	(703) 491-3170



Washington, DC



## Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

JOHN FORREST WZ4A

6111 Burnett St.

Alexandria, VA, 22310

(703) 971-3905

\* Effective July 1, 1998, the General Class written exam question pool (Element 3b) will change. All books and study materials not based on this new pool will be obsolete after that date. Be sure to use study materials appropriate for the current question pool.

\* Volunteer Examiners may refuse to test any applicant who fails to demonstrate to the VE's satisfaction that the memories in the applicant's calculator are empty. If you bring a calculator to an exam, please be prepared to demonstrate that your memories are empty.

\* Effective January 1, 1998, the maximum FCC authorized exam fee is \$6.39.

## 1998 Schedule of Examinations

April 4 (Saturday)	Culpeper, VA - Unknown Sponsor (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: John Berry AF4CY (540)543-2580
April 5 (Sunday)	Landover, MD - DCMARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day
April 11 (Saturday)	Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510  Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083  Cumberland, MD - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576 Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674
April 16 (Thursday)	Towson, MD - Baltimore ARC (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred, Walk-Ins Accepted. Contact: Bill Dobson N3WD (410)HAM-TALK

<b>April 11 (Saturday)</b>	<p><b>Fredericksburg, VA</b> - Fredericksburg VE Team (ARRL VEC) Walk-In  Contact: Carolyn Cavanagh AC4SK (540)373-7076</p> <p><b>Laurel, MD</b> - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)  Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In.  Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM</p>
<b>April 28 (Tuesday)</b>	<p><b>Annapolis, MD</b> - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC)  Pre-Registration Requested - Limited Walk-In  Contact: Lois Turner KA3VVQ (410)647-4178</p>
<b>April 26 (Tuesday)</b>	<p><b>Hagerstown, MD</b> - Antietam Radio Assn (ARRL VEC)  Pre-Registration Suggested - Limited Walk-Ins  Contact: Bob Long KD3JK (301)824-5132, rjlong@erols.com</p>
<b>May 3 (Sunday)</b>	<p><b>Landover, MD</b> - DCMARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In  Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day</p> <p><b>Elkins, WV</b> - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In  Contact: Walter Corley KF8SX (304)637-0506</p> <p><b>Hagerstown, MD</b> - Antietam ARA (Hamfest)(Mount.ARC VEC) Walk-In  Contact: Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674  Fred Wetzel W4KRT (540)678-0394</p>
<b>May 7 (Thursday)</b>	<p><b>Warrenton, VA</b> - Fauquier ARA (ARRL VEC) Walk-In  Contact: Neil Spokes AB4YK (540)363-3861</p>
<b>May 9 (Saturday)</b>	<p><b>Alexandria, VA</b> - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510</p> <p><b>Davidsonville, MD</b> - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In  Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083</p> <p><b>Sterling, VA</b> - Dulles Amateur Radio Group (ARRL VEC)  Contact: Mike Weber WB8RDN (703)450-2304</p>

**May  
10  
(Sunday)**

**Middletown, VA** - Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC) Walk-In  
Contact: Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117  
Gregory Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 KUAN@visuallink.com

**May  
16  
(Saturday)**

**Laurel, MD** - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)  
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In  
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

**May  
10  
(Sunday)**

**Winchester, VA** - Shenandoah Valley ARC (Mountain ARC VEC)  
Walk-In. Contact: Fred Wetzel W4KRT (540)678-0394

**May  
26  
(Tuesday)**

**Glen Burnie, MD** - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC)  
Pre-Registration Requested - Limited Walk-In  
Contact: Jerry Gavin NU3D (410)761-1423

**June  
6  
(Saturday)**

**Alexandria, VA** - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Required.  
Elements 2, 3a, and 3b only.  
Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510 John Forrest WZ4A  
(703)971-3905

**June  
7  
(Sunday)**

**Landover, MD** - DCMARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In  
Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day

**June  
9  
(Tuesday)**

**Annapolis, MD** - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC)  
Pre-Registration Requested - Limited Walk-In  
Contact: Lois Turner KA3VVQ (410)647-4178

***Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!***

**June  
13  
(Saturday)**

**Alexandria, VA** - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In  
Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510

**Davidsonville, MD** - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In  
Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083

**Cumberland, MD** - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In  
Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576  
Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674

**June  
14  
(Sunday)**

**Middletown, VA** - Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC) Walk-In  
Contact: Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117  
Gregory Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792

**June  
18  
(Thursday)**

**Towson, MD** - Baltimore ARC (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred,  
Walk-Ins Accepted  
Contact: Bill Dobson N3WD (410)HAM-TALK

***Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!***

## **TRAINING CLASSES**

**GENERAL CLASS COURSE:** Explorer Post 80, the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club (MVARC), and the First Christian Church of Alexandria, VA will present an upgrade course for advancement to the Amateur Radio General Class license. The course will be presented beginning on May 6 in the evening, followed by three Saturdays, May 16 and 30, and June 6. The location for the course is the First Christian Church, 2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA. The charge for the course is \$15 for which the text, hand-outs, and software will be provided at cost. A VE exam for Element 3B will be administered at the completion of the course on June 6. For further information and to preregister for the course, contact Bill Schmitt KD4CNS at (703)960-9301 or e-mail at wmaschmitt@aol.com. Registration is required no later than Wednesday April 29.

**ELMER COURSE:** The Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club will present an Elmer Course to help new hams become more proficient in the hobby by transitioning from license exam study to station building and actual amateur operation. If you have questions, problems, or are feeling left out of the amateur radio community, perhaps we can help. The course will meet from 10:30AM to 2:00PM on the fourth Saturday of each month from January thru December at the Mt. Vernon Government Center on Parkers Lane in the Mt. Vernon area of Alexandria, VA. For information contact: Frank Lempicki, AA4ZS at (703)971-9304 or Chuck Haser, W3HSW at (703)660-6623.



# Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

## EXAM FEES:

- \* Check for appropriate exam fee. Fees and modes of payment for individual VECs and exam teams may vary.
- \* ARRL VEC exams cost \$6.35
- \* Laurel VEC exams are free
- \* Mountain VEC exams are free
- \* W5YI VEC exams cost \$6.35

## BRING TO EXAM:

- \* Picture identification
- \* Completed FCC form 610 (most VE teams will supply at exam)
- \* Original and a copy of current FCC amateur radio license
- \* Originals and copies of all active certificates of successful completion of prior exams
- \* Exam fee (check or cash depending on VE team)

## "GRANDFATHER" CREDIT FOR ELEMENT 3B (GENERAL WRITTEN):

- \* If you presently hold a Technician class license which was first issued prior to March 21, 1987, you may be grandfathered for Element 3B (General class written exam) by presenting the original and a copy of the license dated prior to March 21, 1987 to the VE team. It is your responsibility to prove that you are entitled to grandfathering. Do not lose your original license!

## RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE FAR VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COOPERATIVE:

1. All submissions must be in writing
2. Date and day of week must be specified for each exam date
3. Point of contact and phone number must be specified
4. Sponsor and location must be specified
5. VEC must be specified
6. Exam dates up to 12 months in advance will be accepted
7. Deadline for submission is 25th of the 2nd month prior to publication date (e.g., January 25 for March issue)



## Alexandria Radio Club

**Meetings:** Second Friday of each month, 7:30 PM at the Alexandria Fire Department Administrative Office (co-located with Fire Station #54), 900 Second St., Alexandria, VA

**Nets:** Every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. on 147.315 output / 147.915 input. (W4HFH repeater)

**Web page:** <http://members.aol.com/N4CWP/W4HFH.HTML> (or search on Yahoo: W4HFH or Alexandria Radio Club).

**Information:** Rich -KA4GFY, 703-644-3920.

Now that winter is officially over, transmitter hunting season starts. The Alexandria Radio Club will begin another season of transmitter hunting April - 11. Just to get everyone up to speed on the finer points of transmitter hunting, we are calling in our experts for the April meeting to show you how its done. Don't miss this one. Don't forget, there is a prize for the ham who finds the hidden transmitter.

The Alexandria Radio Club provided communications for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Alexandria this year. A lot of planning went into this year's event, from both the parade organizers and ARC. We would like to give a BIG thanks to Karen Bunn for giving up her Wednesday evenings to meet with the organizers. It went a long way toward making the parade a success. This has been a club-sponsored activity for the last 16 years, and is one of the most important activities in the city all year. We put technology to work to make this parade a success.

Members of the club are planning to make the pilgrimage to the Dayton Hamvention this year. The last time, the van sprouted antennas for most of the VHF and UHF bands, along with cellular phone and a scanner. (No, we didn't win the award for the most antennas on a vehicle). This time, we plan on bringing HF through UHF, and no dual band antennas allowed.

As always, we continue with excellent programs, and a monthly technical brief. This is a painless way to learn about that facet of ham radio you haven't tried yet. If you have not been to one of our meetings, make it a point to stop by.

Rich, KA4GFY



**Amateur Radio  
Research and  
Development  
Corporation**

**Mailing Address:** PO Drawer 6148, McLean, VA 22106.

**Web Site:** <http://www.amrad.org/>

**Email:** Randy Mays, WA6VFC, [randy@pobox.com](mailto:randy@pobox.com).

**Repeater:** 147.81/147.21 MHz Tysons

**Corner Satellite:** AO-27 145.85/436.8 MHz

Upcoming monthly meetings are as follows:  
April 9, AMRAD webmaster Maitland Bottoms, AA4AH, will speak on authoring and maintenance of World Wide Web pages.

May 14, Terry Fox, WB4JFI, will make a presentation on digital television technology, including the broadcasting industry's plans for migration to advanced or high-definition TV.

June 11, is the "Digital Camera Shootout," so bring your digital camera, display devices and printouts of photos you've taken. Participants should be prepared to demonstrate and discuss their cameras. Those who use film cameras and transfer pictures to computers via scanners are also invited to present their examples.

The above meetings will all be held at the Dolley Madison Branch Library in McLean, Virginia at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month. Please come and bring a guest. Afterwards, about 9 PM we remove to a local pizzeria to refuel.

AMRADers also meet on Saturdays around 12:30-2 PM at Tippy's Taco on Lee Highway near Cedar Lane. Much of the conversation nowadays is focused on low frequencies and digital signal processing experiments.

73, Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, President



## AMSAT The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation

**Local Meetings:** Semiannual in Spring and Fall.

**Information:** AMSAT Area Coordinator: Pat Kilroy, WD8LAQ.

**Contact by e-mail:** wd8laq@amsat.org

**Web site:** <http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/~simsat/ssamsat.html>

All are invited to the next semiannual Maryland-DC area AMSAT meeting and space seminar. The gathering will take place on Sunday afternoon, April 19, at one o'clock in the auditorium of the newly remodeled Visitor Center at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Rick Fleeter, WA8VGK, founder and CEO of AeroAstro, the small satellite and space transportation company. All topics relate to amateur radio and the amateur space program as well as balloon and aerospace experiments. The format is a combination of presentations, informal "show 'n' tell" demonstrations and a social period. The first presentation on the agenda and the keynote are valuable especially to beginners. The entire afternoon will be great fun!

Informal talk-in on WA3NAN/R 146.835 MHz Greenbelt when "near site" and 146.760 from a distance. (The GARC repeater is in a temporary low-coverage site until the antenna is reinstalled on the GSFC water tower.)

The GSFC Visitor Center is open to the public on this meeting day between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Enjoy a NASCOM and Hubble Space Telescope Control Center tour at 11 a.m. or the model rocket launches at 1 p.m. The new Educator's Resource Center (ERC) upstairs is available to those gathering materials for students. For directions and other VC information go to the web site <http://pao.gsfc.nasa.gov/vc/vc.htm> or contact host Pat Kilroy, WD8LAQ, at [wd8laq@amsat.org](mailto:wd8laq@amsat.org). The phone number at the Visitor Center is 301-286-8981. Plenty of free paved parking.

Check for the agenda and all the latest MDC developments by browsing the "Local Maryland-DC Area AMSAT Web Page" at <http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/~simsat/ssamsat.html>.

Invite your friends. Teachers and students are especially encouraged to attend. The gathering will conclude at about 4:30 p.m.



## Anne Arundel Radio Club

**Meetings:** 8 PM 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Queen Anne Bridge & Wayson Roads off MD Rt. 214 near Annapolis.

**On the air:** 2030 Thursdays when there is no club meeting on 147.705/105. Tuesdays at 2030 local time on 28.410. Wednesdays at 2000 on 444.400. The Chesapeake Weather & Traffic Net on 147.705/105 at 1100 and 1500 every weekend day and public holiday from April 1 to November 15. MSN (Maryland Slow Net) every evening at 1930 on 3.7170 MHz.

**Address:** P.O. Box 308, Davidsonville, MD 21035.

**Information:** Margaret (Holly) Bevan, 410-923-0229.

The annual AARC Awards Dinner was held on January 16th at the Busch's Chesapeake Inn. Forty-

five members and guests gathered to honor this year's awardees and to enjoy an outstanding buffet dinner. Plaques were awarded to two outgoing officers: Dick McKelvie/KE3HQ who retired as a club director (in order to assume the presidency) and Dave Evartt/N6TAU for his services as vice-president and as acting president during the end of 1997.

Special framed certificates of appreciation were given to: — Tim Dugan/KA3YYP for technical support of repeater operations, Norm Chipps/N3RZU for support of shack operations and club facilities, Tony Young/WA3YLO for club representation to FAR and DFRC, Charles Johnson/N3HFO for club representation to FAR, Will DeKroney/N3MNW for service as editor of Ham Arundel News, Bill Smith/N3SZW for development and maintenance of AARC Web Page, John Cummings/N3ZCE for significant support of club activities, Frank Dunn/KB3BMV for significant support of club activities.

The Novice Class which started February 14th promises to be a very good group. There were close to 50 members by the third session.

We regret to report the death of another club member. William John (Bill) Wallace, 67, of Millersville died of liver failure February 8th at the Chesapeake Hospice House in Linthicum. Born in Massachusetts, Mr. Wallace served in the Air Force during the Korean War. He had lived in Millersville for about 25 years. He was employed by Monumental Life Insurance Co. and was a member of the Severna Park Elks Lodge and the Glen Burnie Moose. Bill was the widower of Elizabeth Prout Wallace who died in 1997. He had been a club member since December of 1992,

At the clubhouse on February 14th, Oscar Ramsey/NV3G, Charles Tiemeyer/W3RMD and Larry Laffoon/W3RL gave 10 tests to 5 persons. Eight tests were passed with 4 upgrades. Other members of the team were Coordinator Bob Israel/WC3I, Robert Kammer/N3POX, Bettye Tiemeyer/K3VRZ and Holly Bevan/N3MB. The next testing session at the clubhouse will be on April 11th.

Nick Yukanovich/N3YVW has upgraded to Extra. Doug Ellmore/N3XQP and George Vincent/KB3BDA now hold the General Class. New calls include: Gerry Helldorfer/K3GH (was WT3J) and Rich Lehr/W3ECU (was WB3ECU).

73, Holly/N3MB



## Arlington Amateur Radio Club

**Meeting:** Third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M., Red Cross building, 4333 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA. Nonmembers welcome!

**Net:** Tuesdays (except meeting nights), 7:30 P.M., 144.87/145.47 Mhz FM.

**Information:** Mike Callaham, NW3V @ WA3TAI, callaham@tmn.com, / (703) 241-5618.

**WWW:** <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/4306/>

President Jack WA4FXX called the February 17th meeting to order at 1932L. Also attending were Tom N4BYF, Walt KT4EL, Alan KD4FRK, Gerald N4GA, George KR4MU; Mike KA8OPJ, Dennis W4PWF, Joe KJ4S, and Mike NW3V.

Vice President W4PWF and KD4FRK asked for support of Virginia Senate Bill 480, which would ordinarily allow amateur towers up to 200 ft. without good reason otherwise, and House Bill 453, which would allow the ARRL logo on amateur radio license plates. Send support via 800-889-0229, or 910 Capitol Street, General Assembly Building, Richmond 23219, or e-mail to senators at firstinitiallastname@leg.state.va.us and to house delegates at del\_lastname@house.state.va.us.

KD4FRK distributed laminated wallet-size cards listing ARES ECs, AECs, and frequencies for nearby counties. KJ4S announced that there was a new computer in the club shack, thanks to both him and NW3V. It needs a monitor and keyboard,

but Winterfest may provide an opportunity to obtain those items.

The program consisted of the first half of the video, Empire of the Air. The remainder of the video will be shown at the March 17 meeting.



## Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** Meetings: Twice monthly, 7:30 pm at Dulaney High School, 225 E Padonia Rd, shop #3... (June through Sept 97). -First Wednesday of the month -business meeting, Third Wednesday of the month - program.

**Repeaters:** W3FT/RPTR 146.67(-), 224.24 (-) (no PL) and 449.625(-)(PL 107.2) Note: two meter/220 Mhz. repeaters are linked.

**Club Net:** Every Tuesday night at 8:30 pm on 146.67/224.24.

**NTS Net:** Daily at 6:30 pm on 146.670/224.240

**Club BBS:** (410) 252-6238 (min. 2400 baud)

**Information:** (410) HAMTALK

**Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest/Maryland State ARRL Convention information:** (410) HAM-FEST or (800) HAM-FEST.

**Club Address:** BARC, Inc., P.O. BOX 120, Reisterstown MD 21136

## NEW HAM CLASS

As we reported in the February issue, our new hams class started on February 23. We have 12 energetic students studying for the Technician and Tech Plus licenses. To identify components and read the bands on resistors, two old TV sets were torn apart in the class. This sure beats listening to lectures the whole time. The class is expected to run through the month of April, followed by a public test session the week after the class is over. The exact date and location of the test session will be listed on the voicemail system, at 410-ham-talk, but it is currently expected to be the first Monday

of May, 7 PM, at Cockeysville Middle School, Room 36.

## HAMBORREE

By the time this hits print, the Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest will be over. A lot of people have been working hard on this annual project; the largest hamfest this side of Dayton. We hope that everyone who attended enjoyed it. We welcome email comments to dwittich@concentric.net, or send them by USPS to GBHC, PO Box 95, Timonium, MD 21094-0095.

## PUBLIC SERVICE

Chuck, K3FT, is looking for help for several public service activities, including the March of Dimes WalkAmerica (Walkathon) and several other projects. Leave him voicemail at 410-ham-talk, box 5338, or send him an NTS Radiogram. Simply address it to Chuck-K3FT, care of Baltimore Traffic Net, MDC Section, and he'll get it.

## FIELD DAY

Tom, N3YHC is planning for Field Day 1998. He is looking for anyone willing to help. We'll need all kinds of help. We're planning to tent-camp again this year. Come along, bring your camper or just a pillow; there's lots of tent space.

73 for now, Doug N3VEJ

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## Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society (BRATS)

**Meeting:** First Saturday, 3 PM, Pikesville Library, 1301 Reisterstown Rd.

**Nets :** On W3DID/R Sunday, 8 PM - The Listening Post (SWL/Scanner Net). Monday, 7:30 PM The Horsetraders (Swap) Net. Monday, 9 PM Weekly Traffic and Info Net. Tuesdays, 8:30 PM - Computer Net. Wednesdays, 8 PM - Amateur Radio News line. Thursdays, 9 PM - BRATS ATV Net. Saturdays, 1 PM - Weekly News Bulletin. Saturdays 1:20 PM - The BRATS Answer Men

**Repeaters:** BRATS Linked Repeater System: W3DID: 147.030+, 224.960-, 447.225-  
BRATS Stand-Alone Repeaters WA3DZZ: 145.130-, 224.800-, 443.350- BRATS Packet Network: W3GXT-5 145.050 W3GXT-10

224.520. BRATS ATV Repeater System: W3WCQ: inputs: 426.250, 1253.250 outputs: 439.250, 911.250. Packet BBS/Mailbox: N3EZD: 145.690 1200 bps, AX.25.

**Addresses:** snail mail: P.O. Box 5915; Baltimore, MD 21282-5915. e-mail: brats@smart.net. Home page: <http://www.smart.net/~brats>.

**Info Line:** (410) 467-4634

**Hamfest:** BRATS Maryland Hamfest and Computer Fest last Sunday in July, (next: July 27, 1997) at Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD.

The BRATS have a full line up of public service activities planned for early 1998.

The Multiple Sclerosis Walk in Baltimore will be held on Saturday April 18th starting and ending at the Living Classroom in Fells Point. Hams with HTs and 2-meter mobiles should report at 8:00 AM. The Multiple Sclerosis Walk in Towson, MD will be held on Sunday April 19th starting and ending at Towson University. Hams with HTs and 2-meter mobiles should report at 8:00 AM. Lunch will be provided.

The Multiple Sclerosis 150 Bike Tour will be in Kent County, starting and ending at Washington College in Chestertown, MD. This is a two day event (with an overnight stay) on Saturday and Sunday May 30 and 31st.

Contact Bob W3WCQ at 410-828-1605 or Ian N3CVA at N3CVA@EROLS.COM for details or to assist at any of these events.

Please plan now to assist with the 21st BRATS Maryland Hamfest at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, MD on Sunday, July 26th.

Hams are needed both Saturday and Sunday for setup and to assist in event-day activities. Lunch and admission are provided. Contact BRATS at 410-467-4634 or BRATS@SMART.NET.

The BRATS ATV repeater again has audio sub-carrier sound. ATV activity is up as many hams and non-hams in the Northeast Baltimore area have discovered that a cable-ready TV set to CABLE channel 60 (happens to be 439.25 MHz), but with the cable replaced by an antenna connection, can receive the BRATS's color fast-scan video ATV output.

Those farther away will generally require a pre-amplifier and/or a high gain directional antenna. Nothing beats seeing Bob W3WCQ and Heru W3WVV's Saturday 1:20 PM Answer Men Net on 147.03+ with ATV video to answer those really tough questions.

Be sure to check out the BRATS Home Page on the Internet. The home page features a listing of the BRATS public service events, a listing of ham license volunteer examinations in the area, a technical section, and links to various sites such as hamfest lists, the ARRL, QRZ, other ATV sites, and other amateur radio-related sites at <http://www.smart.net/~brats>.

73 Neil WA3ZQI



## Calvert Amateur Radio Association

**Meetings:** Fourth Monday monthly at 7:30 PM. Mt. Hope Community Center at Rt. 2 and Pushaw Station Road.

**Net:** Tuesday at 7:30 PM on the W3ZNW repeater.

**Repeater:** 146.985 (-) the W3ZNW repeater

**Information:** Dennis Bowling/N3QHC at (301) 855-8346. Web: dbowling@erols.com.

Eighteen people attended this month's meeting held at the Mt. Hope Community Center in Sunderland, Maryland.

Jack/AB4FO requested specific information from the club regarding Field Day this year. Members agreed to use the same facility as last year. Hopefully, by next month's meeting we will have received conformation to use King's Landing Park again.

We have not received word on Hams for Nuclear Energy Day commemorating Albert Einstein's birthday. This will be the first year that we have not participated in this event. We usually setup three stations; CW, voice and novice tech at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant with our sister club, SPARC. Ron/WA4PRR, secretary of our sister club has not received information concerning this event. Listen to our Tuesday net for any late breaking information regarding this event.

Breakfast for March will be held at Rusty's Restaurant on Rt. 261 in Friendship, Maryland. Breakfast begins at 9 AM on Saturday, March 14th. We encourage all hams and anyone interested in amateur radio to join us for breakfast. Hope to see you there! We had 21 people show up at February's breakfast.

Our Vice President, Diane/N3ZIZ, has submitted two articles to the two local newspapers, The Calvert Independent and The Recorder about our club. Remember to look for these articles in up coming issues.



## Capital City Amateur Radio Society

**Meetings:** 3rd Saturday of each month at 1200 hours at the Woodridge Public Library, 18th and Rhode Island Ave, N.E., Washington, D.C. Visitors welcome.

**Repeater:** W3EIL 144.51/145.11 MHz, open.

**Nets:** Regular net Wednesday at 2000 hrs, RTTY net Thursdays 2100 hrs, voice portion 2145 hrs, all on 145.110.

**Mailing Address:** CCARS, 1719 Franklin Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20018-2033.

**Information:** Steve, W3ETX, (202) 526-1329 or Chester, W3EIL (202) 529-9598, Joe K3UAL (301) 773-5074 EMail K3UAL @Juno.com.

CCARS celebrated its 19th Anniversary February 18, 1998 at the Fort McNair Officers Club with/Birthday Dinner. The affair was well attended by the membership and guest. The master of ceremonies President John N3TCD officiated over a well prepared program, highlighted by presentations by Clem K3UAM and Colin N3UBI. After the blessing of the food by Jim AA3CD the assembled were served a delicious menu of Honey Glazed Chicken augmented by garden rice and season fresh vegetables. Vanilla ice cream was served with a beautiful Birthday Cake.

After dinner our president made awards of appreciation to Chester W3EIL and Steve W3ETX. Bree N3YAJ was given a certificate for Outstanding Membership. Door prizes and a drawing was conducted for all XYL's. The club presented our XYL's with a Valentine candy box. We give special thanks to Fred K3PUT and Roberta

N3RRD for Door Prizes. Stanley KB4KIM for Dinner Music. Juanita N3NQC for Advice. Chester W3EIL, Willis N3LGB for Logistics. Joe K3UAL for Table Favors.



*Guests at the CCARS anniversary at Fort McNair.*

Members and Guest present. Table 1. John N3TCD & Nannie, Stan WB4KIM & Sondra, Daughter Sonja, Jim WA3WNL & Marie, Fred K3PUT & Irma, Calvin WA3HPS. Table 2. Shep WB3KIC, Gus KE3NY & Maria, Plater N3DZQ & Joan, Chester W3EIL & Enez, Ham N3DTZ, Roberta N3RRD & Lydon N3RFH. Table 3. Joe K3UAL & Jeanne, Ed W3HQ & Barbara, Steve W3ETX & Juliet, Harold N3QEX & Doris, Clem K3UAM & Mary. Table 4. Jim AA3CD, Cyrus N3EPH, Colin N3UBI & Willis N3LGB.



*Chester W3EIL receives "Outstanding Membership" Award from CCARS President John N3TCD.*

We are sorry to hear that Sam N3ECI was hospitalized and hope he is improving since his return home. Sharyn KA3DOF our DX reporter is back home after her stay in a convalescent home. Hope to hear her on the air soon. Juanita N3NQC

is in residence at Washington Hospital Center. We hope for her early release.

Gus KE3NY and his whole family have returned from their extensive trip to his home in Peru. They also visited Brazil.



## **Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club**

**Meetings:** 4th Friday of the month at 7:30pm, at the Doctors Community Hospital, 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD (no meeting in December). Enter in the Outpatient Testing entrance across from the Emergency Room entrance behind the main building. Take the elevator to the 5th floor and exit left, the meeting room (DSE Room) is on the right.

**Repeater:** N3EZD/R 145.230 Mhz. Users must transmit a 110.9 Hz CTCSS Tone for full area coverage. No tone necessary for local coverage.

**Net:** Every Tuesday, 9:30pm, 145.230 MHz repeater.

**Mailing Address:** Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club, P. O. Box 788, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0788.

**Information:** Jim Tilton, Pres. - KD3JA, (301) 552-0012.)

**Web Page:** <http://www.erols.com/jctilton/cmrc/>.

## **General Class License Training Class**

CMARC will be offering a weekly General Class License Training Class starting on March 14th. The class will be held from 9:30 am to 12 Noon on Saturday mornings at the club meeting location at Doctors Hospital in Lanham, MD. Both Morse Code and Amateur Radio theory and regulation will be covered. The Morse Code class will assume students already can receive Morse Code at 5 wpm. Preregistration is required - to preregister call Jim/KD3JA at (301) 552-0012 or

send e-mail to [jctilton@erols.com](mailto:jctilton@erols.com). The class is free, but students will be required to purchase study materials costing approximately \$20.00.

## AMSAT Featured at February Meeting

Thanks go to Howard Ziserman of AMSAT, who presented a slide show on AMSAT at the CMARC February 27th club meeting. As a result of Howard's interesting and informative presentation, several club members hope to try their hand soon at satellite communications! During the business meeting, programs for upcoming meetings were discussed, including an electronics project (the HT-CW kit discussed in the July 1997 QST), a packet radio demonstration and an APRS demonstration. See the club's web page for the latest information on meeting programs.

73 de Jim/KD3JA



### Columbia Amateur Radio Association

**Club meeting:** 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., at the Bethany United Methodist Church, Bethany Lane, Ellicott City.

**Net:** 147.135 repeater at 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday except for meeting nights.

**Repeaters:** 147.735/147.135 (cross-linked to 222.32/223.92); 147.990/147.390 (autopatch & direct dial 911); 222.32/223.92 (cross-linked to 147.735/147.135); 443.275/448.275, and 444.475/449.475 (autopatch & direct dial 911).

**Other club stations:** HF all mode 2-meter FM 2-meter 1200 baud packet (AX.25) on 145.690.

**Information:** Bob Scarborough, Pres - KC3EV, (410) 465-2421.

**Mailing:** P.O. Box 911, Columbia, MD 21044

President	Bob Scarborough-KC3EV
Vice President	Michael Morris-AI3I
Treas.	Dick Frank-W9RZ
Secy.	Dan Goulette-N3LDC
Mem-at-Large	Joe Massi-KB2JG
Past Pres.	Larry Russo-K3TFU
Trustee	Alan Chedester-N3AC

The club's annual winter dinner on Jan. 24th, at the Bethany United Methodist Church, was a success as always. Members came through with a variety of delicious side dishes while the club provided turkey, roast beef, ham and soft drinks.

During the brief business meeting, Pres. Scarborough introduced the new club officers and honored the outgoing board members. He also handed out certificates of appreciation to members for their outstanding contributions to the club during the past year. He also called for volunteers to run our October Hamfest.

Until later, 73's, Jean Williams-KB3AOT



### Digital Mid-Atlantic Radio Council

**Meetings:** Quarterly, date/time TBA

**E-mail:** DMARC@QSL.NET

**Web Page:** <http://www.qsl.net/dmarc>

**Address:** P.O. Box 73, Accokeek, MD 20607.

DMARC exists to provide a forum where those amateur radio operators in the mid-Atlantic region interested in the "digital domain" can network together to learn more about packet radio, TCP/IP, APRS, Spread Spectrum and other evolving digital modes.

The DMARC organization is composed of people just like you! Whether you are the "technical wizard" of your community, a student in middle school, a digital NTS traffic handler, or you just enjoy making packet contacts for the fun of it...

November elections resulted in four incumbents re-elected and Mike Morris-AI3I taking the V-P position. CARA's 1998 Board of Directors is:

we'd love to hear from you and, better yet, benefit from your participation and expertise. You can write us by sending mail to DMARC, Post Office Box 73, Accokeek, Maryland 20607 or you can send an e-mail to DMARC@QSL.NET on the Internet.

The DMARC Annual Membership Meeting was held on Saturday, 21 February at the Prince George's County Emergency Operations Center in Seat Pleasant, Maryland. We were fortunate to have a good turnout of motivated individuals and enjoyed several hours of stimulating discussion about how DMARC should proceed in promoting digital operations in the mid-Atlantic region.

Reports were presented on the status of various on-going networking initiatives in this area; the current progress of the TAPR spread spectrum project; APRS frequency shift issues; what's happening with the 219-220 MHz frequency band for point-to-point digital linking and much more. We concluded the meeting by holding elections for the new year. Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, was unanimously elected as our new spokesman along with a number of additional directors. Complete minutes of the meeting are available on-line at our Internet web site and were posted on packet.

Want more information about the various DMARC initiatives and activities that we are supporting? Then click your Internet web browser to WWW.QSL.NET/DMARC and get the very latest we have to offer on a number of digital topics. Those of you on packet just have to watch for the DMARC@MDCBBS and DMARC@VANET bulletins on your friendly neighborhood BBS... WHAT - no local BBS! Hey, how about starting one up then. Don't know how... then contact us and we'll be glad to help you get started.

We hope to hear from you in 1998. Better yet, why not consider joining our group. We need your support to help make amateur radio digital operations grow in the mid-Atlantic area in 1998!

73, Pete (WA3UMY), DMARC PIO



## Fauquier Amateur Radio Association

**Meeting:** 7:30 p.m., Second Thursday of the month except July, August and December. Crestar Bank, Warrenton Ctr, Warrenton VA.

**Breakfast:** Last Saturday of the month at Western Sizzlin Warrenton VA 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

**Net:** Every Wednesday, 9:00 p.m., 147.165 Mhz NZ4N Repeater

**Packet:** KE4YVU FARA7 node 145.070 Mhz with direct connect to FBBS9, FBBS9 Bulletin Board 145.090 Mhz, FARA9 node 145.090 Mhz.

**Repeater:** NZ4N/R 147.165 Mhz (+0.600).

**Newsletter:** TOROID, Monthly. Deadline for submissions: 20th of the month. Contact Bonnie, n4qpb@mnsinc.com.

**Info:** Chuck Gould, N4YXW 703-347-0112. FARA, PO Box 752, Warrenton VA 20187

**Web:** <http://www.mnsinc.com/ki4ro/fara.htm>.

**Next meeting:** April 9th.

The February meeting came to order at 7:30 p.m. with ten members present and two guests. One of these guests, AB4YY, is now a new member of FARA and was unanimously voted in.

Neil, AB4YK, pointed out that the club purchased the new ARRL tapes for \$111; less than the \$150 that the club originally planned on spending.

There is a new calling tree for ARES; the Behee family is no longer on due to their move to Ohio.

For those of you planning to use the logging software during the VA QSO party, Don, WY2V, pointed out that the software has the wrong dates in it.

Jim Dodd, KF4LGV, gave a very interesting presentation on the Virginia Digital Emergency Network (VDEN). He also gave us a demo on connecting to it by setting up his portable packet

system that all fits nicely into a small briefcase!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

73, Craig Heffner, KF4NYZ  
Secretary, FARA



## Green Mountain Repeater Association

**Repeaters:** \*146.61 Cheverly, \*146.88 Greenbelt. \*(Autopatch).

**Information:** Don Tinari, W3RYQ, (301) 262-7062.

**Mail:** P.O. Box 523, Bowie, MD. 20718.

**E-mail:** mgreen@erols.com.

**Socials:** Luncheon, 1st Saturday of each month at 11:30 A.M., Laurel Centre Indoor Mall Eatery.

**Nets:** 146.88 - Old Gent's Net, 9:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. every day. Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Association Net, every Thursday at 9:30 P.M.

### NEW CONTROLLERS:

Your Board of Directors voted to purchase new Link Communications Inc controllers to replace existing ACC units. ACC has since gone out of business after selling out to Link. (Controllers work in conjunction with the repeaters to provide autopatch, identification, voice announcements, voice playback, etc.) The new units should go into service sometime during the spring. More information to follow.

### TO KEEP YOU BETTER INFORMED:

If you have an Email address and have NOT been receiving monthly GMRA electronic bulletins, please send it along to mgreen@erols.com. The Email bulletins are in

addition to this *Auto Call* column.

### PRIZE WINNING JOURNALIST:

GMRA member, John Rouse, KA3DBN, Editor of the Bowie Blade newspaper, has been honored by being awarded First Place in the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association's Annual Editorial Contest for a Column! Congrats John!

### ARRL CLUB REBATE REMINDER:

When it is time to RENEW your ARRL membership, or JOIN for the first time, GMRA receives a \$2 and \$5 rebate respectively, provided you follow these easy procedures: 1) complete the required ARRL form and place a 32 cent stamp on outer envelope, 2) make out your check for the FULL AMOUNT, payable to GMRA (not ARRL), 3) mail the form and check to GMRA PO Box 523, Bowie, MD 20718.

Our Treasurer, in turn, will write a check to the ARRL minus the club rebate and mail it together with your form to ARRL Headquarters. Thanks.

A CLUB PICNIC is planned for Saturday, June 13, 1998. GMRA will provide the hot dogs and hamburgers! Mark your calendar, please. Details will be provided by Email, regular mail and in this column.

### INTERNET:

The Internet continues to be connected to either the 61 or 88 repeaters on a part time basis. I SOLICIT YOUR SUGGESTIONS on whether or not you would prefer a set schedule for Internet connections and if so, the day(s) and times.

### GMRA MEMBER'S WEB PAGE:

John and Debby Williams (N5SJZ, N5SKA), send along their 73/88 from Utah. The GMRA members have started a part time business on the

Internet. I was impressed with their Web page which includes on-line computer items, software, hardware, digital cameras, books etc. John and Debby will waive the \$4 processing charge for GMRA members. Just mention that in the remarks column of the order form. Take a look at: <http://www.4-star-trading.com>

### UP CLOSE WITH GMRA:

Doc, N3NAG, has been released from the hospital and is presently in a convalescent home. Doc has been through a lot these past 6 months but he is still "hanging in there". We wish him well.

Irv, W3HQG, has relocated to a new apartment. He is now on the 20th floor of a northern Virginia complex. Thanks to Roy, N3NGA, for removing and reinstalling Irv's antenna. Actually from the 20th floor, I suspect Irv doesn't need an antenna!

Joe, KD3VR, spent an entire week down on the eastern shore, electronically wiring 5 boats. Unfortunately, not all of the boats were ready for Joe to work on so there will be a return trip.

Prez, Paul, W3HFA, relocated his business to a new facility not too far from the old establishment.... And the flu bug bit Joel, W3ZRW and Paul, W3HFA at about the same time, followed shortly thereafter by Don, W3RYQ and his XYL. All should be fully recovered by press time.

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT:

During an Internet-repeater contact with an Amateur in England, he conveyed this interesting story. After washing the family car, it began to rain with strong winds, so the amateur took cover to wait out the storm. When it eventually stopped, he returned to his car to discover it was covered with sand! The nearest beach was about 50 miles away so he assumed that is where the sand came from. However, the UK media later reported that the sand was actually blown into England from the Sahara desert. The Sahara covers about 3.5 million square miles of North Africa. Now that's a lot of sand!

### FINAL WORD!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all GMRA members who renewed their membership for 1998 and to those who renewed and also included additional financial contributions. Your support is sincerely appreciated.

73 de Murray, K3BEQ



### Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** Second Thursday of each month. 5:30 PM, In the Historical Electronics Museum, West Nursery Road and Elkridge Landing Roads, Linthicum, Maryland (Next to BWI Marriott Hotel).

**Info:** Nick Yovanovich, N3YVW, (410) 544-5736. **Club Station:** W3GR.

**Mail:** P.O. Box 746, Mail Stop 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203.

**Street address:** 1745 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum, MD 21090.

A used sturdy and high quality tower has been located and purchased. It includes two good rotors and a tri-band Yagi. A fine spring time project. The new antenna committee is making progress already.

HEMARC is now planning to repeat the Special Event Station for the anniversary of the June 6 allied invasion of Europe on D-Day. The W3GR call will be used. It is planned to have both the TBL-13 and the BC-610 up and running for at least sometime during Saturday June 6 and Sunday June 7.

Planning is also underway to operate a Pearl Harbor Day Special Event Station on December 5 and 6.

W3GR will participate in the MD/DC QSL party on August 8 &9. This is the first time HEMARC has attempted to operate in such an event. The goals chosen were to have as many members as possible participate and have a lot of fun in the process.

The first call was made to start thinking about field day. The last two were very good and ideas to make it even better this year are being solicited. Better antennas for satellite operations are already in the works.

The last Elmering class has now been completed. When the demand appears to be increasing a new class will be planned.

Rol Anders, K3RA, Advanced/Extra training program has now begun with high hopes.

The technical session was an excellent presentation by Les Jamison, WR3X on the General Maritime Radio Distress System that is now being put in place throughout the world. Maritime distress electronics have come a long way from the Gibson Girl Transmitters of WW2. The new system makes use of analog and digital communications on HF, VHF and UHF with both satellite and terrestrial modes.

73 de Chip, W4PBG

### Kent Island Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** First Sunday of the Month, 7:30pm at Terrapin Park Maintenance Bldg.  
**Repeater:** 146.94 output V146.34 input  
**Information:** Glenn, WN3G, 410-643-1125; Tom, K30RC, 410-643-4675; Bill, N3VEZ, 643-5974

Our Annual Hamfest is scheduled for May 2, 1998. Location will be the Grasonville, MD VFW, about 5 miles east of the Bay Bridge on Route 50.

Behind the Sleep Inn.

As usual the VFW Ladies' Auxiliary will put on a great inexpensive breakfast starting 7:00 am. The breakfast alone is worth the trip across the Bay Bridge. More Door Prizes are planned this year. The Anne Arundel ARC will probably also be involved this year.

KIARC is also working on a new UHF Repeater that should give great, powerful coverage over the upper shore from Centerville. The frequency should be as follows: Input: 443.225: Output: 448.225.

We have a new machine but no firm date is set yet as we need a tower climber for this tall antenna. Our VHF repeater problems seem to be behind us now. An antenna party on one of the worst weather days of the year (don't seem to be any other type) took care of the problems. Thanks to Queen Anne County for the support. Club meetings first Sunday of the month. Call for location.



### Laurel Amateur Radio Club

A Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

**Meetings:** 4th Wednesday of each month (except November & December) 7:30pm at 384 Main Street, Laurel Md.

**Social:** 2nd Wednesday of each month, except December (Call for directions).

**Nets:** 1st & 3rd & 5th Wednesdays, 8:30pm, on 147.225+, no tone.

**Mail:** P. O. Box 3039, Laurel, MD 20709-0039

**Exams:** 3rd Saturday of each month, to pre-register contact: John/WB3GXW (301) 572-5124 after 6 P.M.

**Information:** Mark/N3NTQ (301) 572-2385 or Roger/W3LM (301) 776-6961.

**Web Site:** <http://www.webtrek.com/~laurel/org/larc>. E-mail: laurel@webtrek.com

The Laurel ARC helped the DC Roadrunners with their annual President's Day marathon held at the Beltsville Agricultural Center. As usual we

had a good turnout and some more practice with directed net operation. The sponsors are always grateful for our help and continue to call upon us each year.

At our regular business meeting in February, it was decided that we would not be providing communications assistance at the Montpelier Festival on the first Sunday in May. We have helped in the past by shadowing festival officials, directing crafters and vendors to their assigned spaces, and helping with parking for about six years.

After the last festival, we felt like the Boy Scout that helped the little old lady across the street against her will. The problem was that we seemed to be duplicating the efforts of the paid Park and Planning Staff. They had radios and seemed miffed that we were even there, regardless of the fact that we were originally asked by the chairperson for our help because the staff radio's batteries usually went south soon after they began operation and they rarely had spare batteries.

We expect to put up our usual tent and operate from there so the general public can see ham radio in action. Time will tell whether our help will be missed at this event.

On the second Tuesday of February, club station KB3BLK went on the air at the Laurel Regional Hospital, with a dual band Diamond antenna and coax donated by Prince George's County and a Kenwood TM-V7A and Astron 35 amp power supply donated by the Woman's Club of Laurel.

This was the regular Commex night, the one hour practice session by the RACES groups statewide. We had about ten of the club members there to observe the check in and also to get some orientation to the National Traffic System method of passing messages. We will be putting the station on the air again for the next Commex and will be using it for some publicity for the club, the Woman's Club and local hospital and elected

officials. The Woman's Club of Laurel has taken on the LARC's project of setting up an emergency station at the hospital as their capital improvement project for the year. Check your local Woman's Club for help with your community project.

We will be able to help the hospital with their four wheel drive program. The hospital provided a locked cabinet for the rig and their electricians fished the coax (325 feet) from the roof to the room. A joint effort by many hands.

73 til next time de Jim/WI3N



### Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

**Meetings:** Third Saturday of every month (except Nov/Dec meeting; check with club contact for specific date) 8:30 A.M. at El Ranch Plus Restaurant, Purcellville, VA. (Monitor 147.48 Mhz simplex.)

**Club Station:** K4LRG

**Net:** LARG 10 Meter Net, Sundays at 8:00 P.M. local on 28.360 Mhz SSB; Commuter Net, mornings and evenings during the week on 147.48 Mhz FM.

**Mailing:** P.O. Box 1004, Purcellville, VA 20134

**Info:** Gary Quinn, NC4S, 540-882-3017 or Norm Styer, AI2C, 540-228-2584

January meeting highlights: The annual election of officers was held. The new officers for 1998 are:

President:	Gary, NC4S,
Vice-President:	Norm, AI2C
Secretary:	Nancy, KE4RTP
Treasurer:	Dale, KD4LSL.

February meeting highlights: Dennis, KE4TJI, presented several graphic designs for the new club QSL cards. A vote was taken and one design was

approved by the membership. The club is planning to participate in the Virginia QSO Party in March. John, W4AU, will be having and "open station" during the contest so club members who are new hams can come and operate can get a taste of HF and contest operating.

The club's internal 10 meter contest for 1998 is underway. It appears that Norm, AI2C, is currently in the lead. The Field Day committee was formed with John, W4AU, as the lead. Once again, we hope to hold it at Ida Lee Park in Leesburg.

John Kanode, N4MM, was the guest speaker. One item that he spoke about was the important "tower bill" before the Virginia House of Delegates (SB480). He noted that you can call 1-800-889-0229 to register your support. Information is also available on the "web" at <http://leg1.state.va.us>.

Hope to see some new faces at the next meeting to be held on Saturday, April 18th.

73, DE KE4RTP



## The Maryland Apple Dumpling Radio Amateur Society, Inc.

**Meetings:** 2nd and 4th Thursdays - 7:00 P.M.  
St. Paul's Church, 10401 Armory Avenue,  
Kensington, Maryland 20895.

**Clubhouse:** MADRAS Clubhouse, 11800  
Coakley Circle, Rockville, MD 20852

**Nets:** 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:00 P.M. on  
145.45 MHz (PL-5A).

**Repeaters:** 444.100/449.100 MHz (PL-2A),  
145.45/144.85 MHz (PL-5A).

**WWW Address:** <http://mvhsl.mrhs.edu/~fwright/MADRAS.html>

**Mailing:** P. O. Box 2468, Wheaton, MD 20902

**Information:** Leo Boberschmidt KA3TGY  
(301)946-3738, Jean Blacik N3PLC (301)  
984-6114.

It has been a busy month or two for the MADRAS members. We are in the process of revising our brochure, the one we pass out at hamfests and send to new members; plus we wanted to make some changes on our MADRAS stationary.

Our repeater committee has been busier than usual also since we have had some problems with our 2-meter repeater lately. The committee plans on spending the next free Saturday doing maintenance at the site. We apologize if this causes any inconvenience to you and we will limit down time as much as possible.

We have heard many new voices using the 145.45 repeater and hope you all continue to do so.

Many thanks to Bob Price N3NNQ, for his demonstration of SWR measuring at our February 12th meeting. You did a great job, Bob.

Leo Boberschmidt W3LEO, gave a presentation on "IOTA" - The Islands On The Air at the February 26th meeting.

Only four more months to Field Day '99. We decided we wanted to get an earlier start with our preparations this year so we will have our first round of field day preparations at our March 26th meeting. We hope you all circle your calendar and put in an appearance at that meeting.

We want to thank Lenny Schacter N3RPQ, for keeping us informed about what is going on at the FAR meetings. Lenny provides us with a detailed report after every meeting which gives us an opportunity to give him our input to take back to FAR.

Keep your fingers crossed that this great weather stay with us. This is the first year we have not cancelled any meetings because of the weather conditions.

Two continuing 1998 Resolutions for All MADRAS members:

I will come to the MADRAS meetings.

I will check in to the Thursday night net on 145.45.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE HAM COMMUNITY!!!!

73, Jean-N3PLC



### The Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** First Friday of each month at Baldwin Hall, Millersville, MD.

**Repeaters:** W3CU (PL 107.2) - 146.805 & 449.125 both in Millersville, Md. W3VPR - 442.3 in Annapolis - Joint usage AARC.

**Social Breakfasts:** 15 days (3 Saturdays) after club mtg, at Rick's Cafe in Odenton at 9 AM.

**Mailing:** MMARC, P.O. Box 935, Severn, Md. 21144

**Nets:** 2-Meter on 146.805 @20:30 local time every Monday, 10-Meter CW practice net @19:00 Monday on 28.230 MHz.

**Information:** Bill Ziegler KA6TYY (410) 987-2384 (email: Zzziggy@aol.com).

**Web:** <http://www.erols.com/wb3v/mmarc/>

Greetings from the Mobileers!

### SPECIAL EVENT STATION

(Brian has this to say about our Armed Force Day Special Event!) On May -16, Armed Forces Day, the MMARC will host a special event station aboard the U.S.S. Torsk, in the Baltimore Inner Harbor. We could use voice and CW operators from 1400-2000(UTC), with set-up to begin right after an early breakfast (of course!).

Frequencies in use will be; 7.240, 14.240, 21.340, 28.340 (all +/- QRM) and the 146.805 and 442.300 repeaters. Our call sign this year is the same as last year (thanks to Russ/N3GT!), W3N.

Certificates will be issued for contacts. Hope to see, or hear you then! CUL./Brian/N3QXW.

If you want to participate with the Mobileers, please contact Brian at 410-437-4713 or Email him at n3qxw@compuserve.com.

### FIELD DAY

Field Day is 27 - 28 June this year. The MMARC will be operate a medium power site at Downs Park in Pasadena. For more info contact John Kohl/KO4A at ko4a@juno.com.

That's it for this month. Please note our club meeting, breakfast and net times. We would be happy to meet you and share some good "Ham Stories"!! Don't hesitate to use our repeater if you are in the areas.

73, Bill/KA6TYY



### Metropolitan Communications Network Radio Club, Inc.

**Meetings:** Quarterly, Second Sunday of the month at 13:30 p.m. Place TBA

**Repeater:** 52.250 IN/53.350 Out.

**Net:** AM Coffee net Sunday 9:00 AM on 50.400

**Information:** 6608 N. 18th St. Arlington, VA 22205

The Sunday Morning Coffee Net has been in operation for over 40 years. The current Net Control Operator is Bob WA3GGO.

Bob just returned from a months trip to Florida to visit family and friends. While on the later part of his visit he had some health problems because of change of diet away from home. These problems have been overcome and he has returned to good health.

In Bob's absence the net was ably run by Stan W3TFA. Check-in's continue to increase each Sunday. Some of the recent Check-ins, Chris WA3JLR, Joe K3UAL, George N3FNF, Bert N3NFV, Woody K3DLH, Ken K3UQQ, Less N3RFO, Bob KC3VO, Charles WA4GLO, Fred KX3Z, Nate N3FYT.

All licensed amateur radio operators are invited to join us every Sunday morning at 0900 50.400 AM. You are also invited to join our 6 meter club, Metropolitan Communications Network Radio Club Inc.

For membership information call Mary Milligan KAIKWP Secretary 703 533-0650 or Joe Saunders President 301 773-5074.

73's, Joe K3UAL



## The Mid-Atlantic DX and Repeater Association

**Meetings:** Rotating locations among Hagerstown MD, Frederick MD, Martinsburg WV and Gaithersburg MD.

**Net:** Thursday evenings at 1930 local on 147.06.

**4 State 10M net:** Wednesdays at 2000 local on 28.315.

**Repeaters:** Frederick MD: 147.06, 224.20, 448.125; Martinsburg WV: 147.345.

**Mailing:** 230 North Potomac St., Suite 2A, Hagerstown MD 21740

**Information:** Voice BBS (301) 416-8447 and (301) 473-4151.

**Web Page:** <http://www.qsl.net/madra>

**E-Mail:** madra@juno.com

control, remote linking and...getting ready for 10M fun as the sunspots begin to reappear. Thanks, Ray

So, here we are at the beginning of April, remembering well how good dinner was at Brewer's Alley on March 12. Of course, we will be getting our palates ready for the April experience: dinner at Rocco's Restaurant in Hagerstown on April 9.

The HF clinic on February 14 went well. Not only did we get a lot of wire in the air but also had fun guiding a group of Cub Scouts through the different operating positions. Bob, N3TXB, had this audience "trance-fixed" with color SSTV stills. The images poured in from all over the US and a few European locations, too. The fact that it was Valentine's Day added some special attention by operators to the text and images they were sending.

Mike, W8ABC, has been leading the club toward greater use of ATV in different applications. Preliminary work in February was directed to developing an over-the-shoulder backpack transceiver for use in our upcoming shopping center demonstrations. As this is being written, we are targeting a late March weekend for an ATV clinic, perhaps to be combined with public demonstrations at a Frederick or Hagerstown shopping center.

We're still working on improvements in the administrative work it takes to support a club like ours. Member information packets, renewal notices and bulletin mailings are all being done in different ways from past practices. Please check in to the nets and/or feed us info using e-mail. We think we've got things running smoother but feedback from the members can help us do a better job.

John, N3TWN, has started collecting some statistics from weekly nets. After some weeks of this, we hope to be able to say that the changes we've made in this aspect of the club has made some improvements. Seems like we're bound to get better if we work harder. What do you think about the Ham Radio news that's been added to

Greetings of the Season! Springtime, in this case. Despite the strange custom in our hobby of reserving antenna work for the cold and wet days of fall and winter, we're doing otherwise. Ray, N3HYM, has donated some antennas which will add strength to our signals on many fronts: repeater

the pre-net activities?

Once daylight saving time moves in, again, we expect to change net start times as we did last year. Let us know if that gives you a better looking lawn and garden.

73 DE N2CSQ/3



## Montgomery Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m., Executive Office Bldg, Montgomery Co. Govt Center, 101 Monroe St, Rockville. Park in underground lot G-2.

**Repeaters:** 146.955 (-600) & 442.750 (PL 156.7) in Rockville.

**Club Net:** Every Sunday night at 7:30 PM, on the MARC repeater.

**Internet:** <http://www.qsl.net/marc>

**Mail:** MARC, P.O. Box 611, Gaithersburg, MD 20884-0611

**Information:** Jeff - KZ3F (301) 258-0112

**Training:** Ms. Rocky Jones (301) 216-5210.

## Larry Gasch, W3SFY Silent Key

It is with regret we record the passing of Larry Gasch, W3SFY. He was a long standing member of the MARC Club and a member of the Board of Directors. His efforts helped and inspired many new and old hams alike. We truly will miss this OM.

## HT Beats Cell Phone

(By Don Sylvain, WA3WOD) On Sunday afternoon January 4th, Ralph WB0JKV was in the Carderock Recreation Area climbing area when he became aware of a climbing accident and that a cell phone had failed to get through to 911. A woman had fallen while attempting a rock traverse

and evidently had some serious injuries.

WB0JKV broke into a QSO on 146.955 (MARC repeater) and found that his HT was marginal for the autopatch connection. WB0JKV then asked for assistance for an emergency call. Don WA3WOD just happened to be in his shack and monitoring 146.955 while chasing HF DX.

Since he had a shack phone handy, a quick 911 call got the response that an accident on or near the Billy Goat Trail had already been reported and could be the same incident. WB0JKV had stayed on frequency and informed WA3WOD of his exact location and that the two accidents could not be the same. A second 911 call by WA3WOD got agreement that the Carderock accident must not be what had been already handled. About 5 minutes later WB0JKV reported that help had arrived. In fact, four vehicles arrived almost simultaneously from Cabin John Fire Dept., Park Police, and David Taylor Naval Basin.

Two lessons here- always have your HT or other rig along and be clear, as WB0JKV was, as to nature and location of the emergency!



## National Capital ARES Council

The next NCAC Institute is scheduled for June 13, 1998 from 8:30 - 5:00 at National Red Cross Hq in Falls Church, VA. Once again the Institute is being funded by the Foundation for Amateur Radio!

Topics to be discussed are: Planning and Organizing Communications for a Large Event, Packet 101/Exercise (based on parade, shelter or other practical application), Copper Dual-Band Super J-Pole Construction Project, Intro to DC Power Systems, Skywarn Hurricane Class as well as other basic courses.

We will also be offering a track for served government and private agency representatives on Utilization of ARES/RACES followed by a panel discussion on the topic. The cost will remain \$10.00 to cover refreshments and lunch.

NCAC is preparing to support Erv, KT4DS, and Prince William County for the Northern Va EMS Council Mass Casualty Exercise on April 25th at Nissan Pavilion.

A large part of our function will be providing communications in support of the Command Hospital System. What does that entail?

In the event of a mass casualty incident, local hospitals might be overwhelmed and it becomes necessary to distribute the "patient load" among several hospitals. This should include regional trauma centers, burn units and other specialized facilities. Medivac helicopters may be used as well as ground transport ambulances. One hospital, acting as the Command Hospital, would determine how many patients each hospital is capable of caring for—including those patients with special needs.

While the hospitals prepare, Emergency Medical Service personnel on the scene of the incident are "triaging" or assessing how many patients there are, grouping them according to how severely they are injured.

While the more seriously injured patients are prepared to be transported first, others are also given care while they wait. Patients with minor injuries or uninjured persons might also assist with caring for others.

How does Amateur Radio fit into the picture? By communicating for EMS personnel and hospitals that will be receiving patients. Relaying information on numbers of patients by level of injury from the scene and numbers of available beds from other hospitals to the Command Hospital.

Local ARES/RACES officials should periodically make sure that hospital personnel know how to contact them AND be certain that they are capable of communication within and without the hospital building. Check antennas if you have them and know which repeaters can best be used to communicate between hospitals if necessary.

Look for a list of public service events on the NCAC Calendar elsewhere in this publication and check in to the NCAC net on Sunday at 9 PM on either 146.91 or 146.79 for information on training and other activities in the DC, MD & No Va area.

Jeanne Rexroad, N4ZGI

DEC, Va District 2

Chairperson, National Capital ARES Council



**Potomac  
Valley  
Radio Club**

**Packet:** K3MQH 145.63, K3NA 145.63, K4FJ 145.77, KE3Q 145.57 445.375, N3RR 145.51 441.325, N4OHE 145.710 440.925, N4SR 145.63, W3LPL 145.59 441.25, WR3L 145.61 440.95.

**Web:** [www.pvrc.org](http://www.pvrc.org) & [www.pagesz.net/~pvrcnc](http://www.pagesz.net/~pvrcnc).

**Information:** Rich Boyd, KE3Q, (301) 464-8014, [rboyd@capaccess.org](mailto:rboyd@capaccess.org)

This column will provide the casual operator with sufficient information to participate in the listed contests, though, due to limited space, the complete rules, scoring, or log submittal information is not given. Below are a few HF and VHF+ contests scheduled during APRIL with times given in EST though logs should be kept in UTC (Z) time. You do not have to be a member of any club or send in a score to enjoy operating in contests and helping others earn points. For more information about contests or PVRC, please contact KE3Q or me.

MARAC County Hunters Contest, SSB: 10th to 12th 7 pm, 3880, 7240, 14270, 21340, & 28340 kHz. Work anybody. US stations send RS-county-state and others send RS and province or country. ARRL VHF/UHF Spring Sprints, all modes. Dates are Monday the 13th for 144 MHz, Tuesday the 21st for 222 MHz, and Wednesday 29th for 432 MHz. Each section is 7pm to 11pm local. Work anybody and exchange grid square numbers — see Apr 94 QST or ask a station what your square is. The serious competitor will use SSB and CW but watches the simplex channels of 146.55, 146.58, 223.5, and 446.0 MHz for FM contacts.

In state QSO parties you work only stations in the sponsor state and they work anybody. Exchange RS(T) and QTH (your state or sponsor county). Your score is the contact points multiplied by the number of counties worked in the sponsor state.

Michigan: 18th 1pm-10pm and 19th 6am-9pm. CW 1810, 3540, 7035, 7125, 14035, 21035, 21125, 28035, & 28125 kHz. SSB: 1855, 3905, 7280, 14280, 21380, & 28580 kHz. Exchanges also includes QSO numbers.

Florida: 25th 1pm-11pm and 26th 9am-7pm. CW: 45 kHz up from band edge. Novice 10 kHz up. SSB: 3850, 7225, 14250, 21300, & 28450 kHz. Suggest SSB on the hour and CW on half hour. No 160m.

Nebraska: 25th 12 noon to 26 12 noon. CW: 1805 kHz & 80 kHz up from band edge. SSB: 1855, 3880, 7280, 14280, 21380, & 28380 kHz. Novice up 10 kHz and 28380 kHz.

In this column we focus on domestic contests that may be of interest to folks that have not contested before. During April, there are also contests sponsored by clubs in Australia, Belgium, England, Estonia, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia. We don't have room to cover all the contests but if you hear participation in one of the DX contests, you should be able to listen to a few contacts and

determine what the exchange is. Jump in. Have fun.

73, Dick Wilder, K3DI, 410-757-6707,  
wilder@clark.net,  
or via the above packet network.



## Quarter Century Wireless Assn. Chapter #91

**Meetings:** Neighbor's Restaurant, Cedar Lane and Park Street, Vienna, VA; third Saturdays; Noon. **Business/Program Meetings:** Odd-numbered months. (Come at 11:30 to chat; program begins at noon.) **Informal/Ragchew Meetings:** Even-numbered months.

**Newsletter:** Bi-monthly to all members.

**Information:** Dick Rucker (KM4ML), Secretary; 10426 Darby St., Fairfax, VA 22030-3603; 703-591-3279. Also on the VHF net.

**VHF FM Net:** Sunday 9 AM, 146.79MHz.

The Vic Clark Chapter 91 held its first meeting of the year on 17 January 1998 at Neighbors Restaurant in Vienna, VA with 17 members and 7 guests in attendance. Our new president, Terry Hines (N4ZH), opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, and asked each person to do a self introduction.

Secretary-Treasurer Dick Rucker, KM4ML, proposed the chapter donate \$100 to the QCWA's Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of members Ethel M. Smith, K4LMB; Kenneth A. Clark, N4FU; and Harry Z. Kaklikan, W4ACN who became Silent Keys in 1997. The members present so moved, seconded, and unanimously passed the proposal.

Dick also encouraged members, who have not yet done so, to write their bios for the chapter scrapbook. Don't wait for someone else to write it for you as an obit! Dick also noted that the membership got a real treat in the last newsletter

with Jack Kelleher's, W4ZC, bio recounting his experiences in the early development of mobile VHF equipment for military use during WWII.

Jack Kelleher, W4ZC, QCWA National President, made a few brief comments concerning the board meeting held last October in Kansas City. He noted that the QCWA Journal has a new editor in the person of Gerry Wentz, KC4EHT, and also a new look. Jack solicited comments from anyone on what they either like or don't like about the new format.

Jack also apprised the members of a telephone companies proposal to the FCC to allow them to apply per-minute charges for internet access calls similar to the charges for interstate long-distance service. It was pointed out that the FCC had already ruled against this particular proposal last May. However, the underlying issues of paying for the infrastructure to support the growing demands for Internet service remain unresolved.

New President Terry Hines, N4ZH, opened his remarks by talking about the chapter's objectives. He noted that while the fellowship we share is good it is not enough. Considering the wealth of amateur radio related experience among our members, Terry suggested we focus our energies on "Elmering".

For example, there are ham clubs in a half-dozen high schools in Fairfax County which could benefit from the knowledge and experience of our members. Should we not offer to assist the faculty counselors of these clubs and advance the hobby? No definite action was taken but the idea will be pursued further after making some contacts in the school system.

Terry presented the meeting with a set of proposed "themes" for the year 1998 — along with nominal dates:

January	Membership Drive
February	Elmering
March	Field Trip to National WX Service
April	Homebrew and Kits

May	Field Day Antennas
June	Chapter 91 in the Field (Field Day)
July	Picnic
August	QRP/QRO
September	open
October	Field Trip to the Annapolis (MD) APRS Facility
November	Elections
December	Holiday Party

The membership approved this list as a guide for 1998. Sounds like a full year!!

Terry also proposed tightening up the Sunday morning Chapter 91 2-meter net operation. He wants to get the business over quickly for those who have other commitments and then let those who can or wish to engage in general discussion do so. All those in range of the Fairfax (VA) 146.79 repeater are welcome to join in at 0900 on Sunday mornings.

The feature of the meeting was a presentation by Greg Haas, W5ZNT, our new Vice President. Greg lives in a town house and is limited to an attic antenna for twenty meters and above. He outlined his procedure to satisfy the FCC and, more importantly, himself that he did not subject anyone to radiation in excess of the newly promulgated guidelines.

Greg was concerned about his town house neighbors, separated from his attic by a masonry wall. But even more important, he was concerned about his wife who has her sewing room on the second floor just beneath his attic antenna! Measurements were made using a combination of homemade and commercial instrumentation. Greg's presentation was quite detailed -much too so for inclusion here. He did conclude that his station produced no radiated fields in excess of the safe limits. Well done, Greg!

Terry, N4ZH, donated three books for auction which netted the chapter \$5.00.

73 de KM4ML and W4BHD



## Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** First and Third Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. SVARC Club House 2921 Grace Street, Winchester, Virginia.

**Repeater:** 146.22 In/ 146.82 Out.

**Net:** Shenandoah Valley Emergency Net (SVEN) 7:15 daily on 146.22/146.82 Repeater.

**Mailing:** P.O. Box 139 Winchester, 22604.

**President:** Fred Wetzel (W4KRT).

**Info:** Irvin Barb, W4DHU, 955-1745.

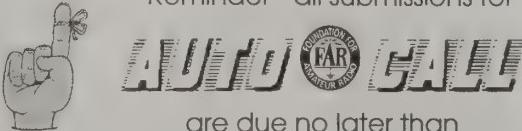
**Internet home page:** <http://www.vvalley.com/svarc>.

Although the winter has not been a bad one for the Shenandoah Valley, I am sure that we are all ready for spring. Actually, we are already seeing the first signs. The forsythia and crocus are blooming in the area so spring must be closer than we think. The club's new social event chairpersons, Karen Avey (KF4LGW) and Jane Mort (KF4VEC), organized and prepared food for the Annual Shrimp Feed. The event was held at the clubhouse on Friday, February 20, 1998. Fifty to Sixty members and family attended. This was the first of three yearly social events hosted by the club each year.

In celebration of the club's 50th Anniversary, a banquet is in the early planning stages. Watch future issues of *Auto Call* for more banquet information. Members should pay close attention to the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Net. Any announcements regarding public service events will be announced at that time.

73. Guy Avey (W3INT)

Reminder - all submissions for



are due no later than  
the 1st of the month prior to the  
month of publication!!



## Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** 2nd Friday of each month at 1930 ET at the PG County Police, Clinton Station, 6707 Groveton Drive, Clinton, Maryland.

**Nets:** Tuesday at 2000 on 147.15+ Repeater; Wednesday at 2000 on 1.865 (+/-QRM); Thursday at 2000 on 28.447 USB.

**Repeater:** WA3YUV/R 147.15+, Brandywine, Md. Autopatch to 911.

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 273, Cheltenham, Md, 20623

**Information:** Vic (WA3YUV) & Linda (KA3VNI), (301) 888-1388.

**Internet:** <http://www.iscanit.com/smarc>

The newest members of SMARC include Michael Stern, KB7THL; Joe, KB3BBX; Justin, KB3BXQ and Kenney, KB3BXT (myself). By the time you read this, Justin and his family will have moved to Myrtle Beach, SC. Good luck, Justin! Congratulations to Dave, KE3ID, and his XYL, on their newest harmonic, Nickolas Ryan Abbou, born on January 8, 1998!

Several SMARC members participated in the recent ARRL 10-Meter Contest. Winners are:

Junior Class Phone	Score
Vic Curtis, KB3BTD	864
Eric Cahoon, KB3BUR	468

QRP Class, CW	
Larry Cahoon, WD3P	1,200

Low Power Class Phone	
Allen Stevenson, KA3ZPA	32,266
Euclid Coukouma, N3VPV	2,090

Low Power Class Mixed Mode	
Richard Eshelman, WK3I	165,206

At the February 13 meeting, we celebrated the 23rd birthday of SMARC, which has been active in the Southern Maryland area since 1975. Thanks to Linda, KA3VNI, for the very fine birthday cake ... there were not even any crumbs left!

Congratulations to Steve, N3ZBJ, for completing the construction of his four-element two-meter cubical quad antenna which he has in operation. Steve claims over 15db forward gain, with front-to-back ratio of over 6 db. For more details, ask Steve .. he is more than happy to provide details of his adventure in building.

We are looking forward to participating in the annual Prince George's County "Christmas In April" project. Details are not yet available, but we expect it will be on Saturday, April 25.

This is a very worthwhile project which is always supported by SMARC members with their mobile 2-m rigs and HT's, providing communications for this project. Additional details will be forthcoming from George, KA3KIF. Also, we expect the annual March of Dimes Walk-a-thon to be held in Waldorf on Sunday, April 26; however, details are not available at this writing.

Recent programs included a couple of mini-hamfests, and an excellent presentation by Mike, N3RWF, on RFI caused by power lines and faulty household appliances and equipment.

Our Activities Manager, Frank, N3OCW, has several interesting programs planned for the near future, including a presentation on LoJack. We are also looking into the possibility of having an operating amateur radio station at the County Fair in September.

Once again, SMARC extends an invitation to all local hams and potential hams to come and join us at our monthly meetings. All are welcome!

73, Kenney KB3BXT, SMARC PIO



## Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** 8:00 P.M. - Third Monday of the month except July and August at Sterling Community Center Annex, Church Rd. (Rt. 625) near Route 28, Sterling, VA.

**Mailing:** Call Box 599, Sterling, VA 20167.

**Information:** Bill Lorentz, KS4II, 703-444-6341 or via email [KS4II@AOL.com](mailto:KS4II@AOL.com).

ARRL Roanoke Division Director John Kanode, N4MM and Vice Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF spoke to the members of SPARC and the local Amateur Radio Community at our February meeting. We really appreciated hearing all the latest information from the ARRL. Thanks to Craig Brown, N4FSC for posting the announcement about the visit by John & Dennis on the N4FSC repeater.

We were all proud to receive official notification that the club is now incorporated in the state of Virginia. SPARC received its Certificate of Incorporation on January 28, 1998. We all appreciate the efforts of James Chappell, KQ4NR and Attorney G. Curtis Overman, Jr. of Overman, Cowardin & Martin, P.L.C. Our next goal is Non-Profit/Tax Exempt status for the club.

73, Bill, KS4II

	<p>Michael C. Martin N3RWF <b>Interference Investigator</b> <i>ESO&amp;C Substation Operations &amp; Test-Electronics</i></p> <p>8400B Old Marlboro Pike Upper Marlboro, MD 20772</p> <p>Office/Fax 301 967-5230 Pager 202 530-3731 Email <a href="mailto:MCMARTIN@PEPCO.COM">MCMARTIN@PEPCO.COM</a></p>
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## The Middle Atlantic FM and Repeater Council, Inc.

**Meetings:** Coordinating Committee (CC) normally meets the last Monday of each month, 19:30, in the OEP conference room of the Prince George's County Emergency Operations Center off Central Avenue. Talking on 147.18.

**Address:** P.O. Box 1022, Savage, Md. 20763-1022 for all correspondence.

**Web Page:** <HTTP://WWW.T-MARC.ORG>.

**Information:** President - Owen Wormser K6LEW (703)684-7682 CC Chairman - Bill Conaway W8HNT, Pager (703)741-4251. Ombudsman - Jim Erickson K3LFO (410)549-1041, [K3LFO@APEXGRP.COM](mailto:K3LFO@APEXGRP.COM).

"Do I REALLY NEED to put my own repeater on the air?" This is a question many existing, and would-be, repeater sponsors should ask themselves. Our VHF and UHF repeater bands are all at, or close to, the point of repeater saturation. MANY existing repeaters go almost totally unused. Yet, there is almost no room for any new ones.

So, we should all ask "Do we really need any more?" I would guess that almost all of you are easily within range of more repeaters than you could possibly use, at least on a regular basis. On the air monitoring reveals that the level of activity on the existing repeaters is slowing down. Are they all needed? Do they get much use, or could they support additional users?

Many existing repeaters are sponsored by single individuals, and have very low levels of use. Generally, machines sponsored by clubs have the largest amount of activity. Is it fair for the existence of one or more individual's low-usage repeaters be enough reason to prevent some new club from being able to get a coordinated repeater frequency pair for a new club machine? If your repeater falls

in the low- to no-usage category, why not think about moving your activity to some other nearby machine (perhaps you could volunteer to help their "technical committee"), and give your frequency pair up.

The factors discussed above have given the T-MARC Board of Directors the opportunity to start a study of possible coordination policy changes. One idea being discussed would be a policy which gives club-sponsored repeaters a higher priority in obtaining a coordinated frequency pair. Another idea would be to reduce the co-channel spacing criteria for low-usage repeaters. Along with that would be implementation of coded-access (such as "PL", etc.) for "short-spaced" repeaters.

Please let us know your ideas. You can E-mail us at the new T-MARC E-mail address shown in the header, above.

Final coordinations have been issued to the following new repeaters: N3MIR at an improved site in Odenton, Md., on 224.600; N3ONK on 224.300 at Rising Sun in northeastern Md.; and N3YMS on 146.79 at Dover, Del. N3WUU's 442.550 machine has been re-coordinated from its old site in Beltsville, Md., to a new site in NW D.C. N4CHP has discontinued his repeater operation on 224.98 in Falls Church, and turned the frequency pair in for re-coordination. THANKS! And the Virginia Digital Emergency Network has put up a new machine on the SNP (Shared, Non-Protected) frequency pair 144.57/145.17 near Fredericksburg, Va., while they await a permanent frequency pair to become available.

73, Gary, W3DTN, T-MARC PIO

Reminder - all submissions for



**AUTO HALL** FOUNDATION OF AMATEUR RADIO

are due no later than  
the 1st of the month prior to the  
month of publication!!



## Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.

**Meetings:** Second Tuesday of each month at Springwoods and Chaucer, Lake Ridge, VA.  
**Net:** Monday nights at 2000 on 147.24 with 224.78 link.

**Repeaters:** WB4FQR 147.24 (+), WB4GJZ 224.78 (-), WB4FQR 444.90 (+), N4LJZ 144.99 simplex PL-100 HZ

**Mailing:** PO Box 112, Woodbridge, VA 22194

**Information:** Jim Stearns, KC4ZHQ (703) 670-3480.

**Change Information:** Bob Graham, K4RG, 703/878-0697

**Web Page:** <http://www.pwcweb.com/wwi/>

Woodbridge Wireless Tech license Class, lead by Bob K4RG, started on March 19th at the Montclair Fire Station 17. The class room is full of eager students, young and old. The ARRL videos are being used to supplement our club instructors. The class runs for 10 weeks every Thursday night from 7:30 pm to 9 pm.

WWI's support of high school and collegiate Crew races on the Occoquan River started on March 28th. Communications are maintained between the regatta headquarters, the finish line, and the starting line which is on a floating dock in the middle of the river. Last year only one radio was lost to the sea (uh river). Mark your calendars for the future dates - April 4, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 15, 16, 22, and 23. This public service not only helps the operations of the races, but the safety of the kids. Last year several boats sunk in high winds, and help was quickly summoned using ham radio.

Woodbridge Wireless has added a 6 element 15 Meter beam to its' arsenal of Field Day antennas. The club received this very large antenna in return for tower work performed. Thanks to KA4RRU and K5OF for climbing the towers, and W4DC, K8MLM, W4DAV, KT4AD, KC5TLC, K8LDQ and WD4AIR on the ground crews. While

we are in the THANKS department, thanks to Jim, WD4AIR, for repairing the power supply for the 144.99 Simplex repeater; thanks to Carl, WB4ZNH, for donating a aviation wheel chock for the emergency bus; and thanks to KD4SKZ for arranging the donation of a 40 foot ladder to the club. The ladder is being stored temporarily stored at KC4BJE's QTH.

There are many WWI projects/efforts underway that can use your help. Here is just a partial list, but if any of them seem interesting to you, or if you just want to learn more about the subject, please contact any of the club officers: CREW SUPPORT (March to May), FIRE/POLICE RADIO INSTALLATION on the emergency bus, STORAGE AREA for club equipment, MANASSAS HAMFEST DONATIONS to raise money for WWI, PORTABLE REPEATER assembly, EMERGENCY COMM SUPPORT, installation of OUTSIDE LIGHTING ON BUS, WWI JACKETS re-procurement, and FIELD DAY ROTOR AND ANTENNA preparations.

If you are renewing your ARRL membership, or joining for the ARRL for the first time, please do it through the club. We then use the ARRL rebate form to receive a rebate of the dues (\$2 renewal/\$5 new) without any additional cost to you or the club. This is a good deal, and the club should be able to bring in approximately \$200 a year if everyone participates. Coming up - a Rabbit Hunt (DFing hunt) in April, the annual trek to Dayton in May, and preparations for the mountain top VHF contest and Field Day in June.

## Maryland Radio Center

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# **Foundation for Amateur Radio**

## **HAM OF THE MONTH**

### **Awarded to**

# **John Creel, WB3GXW**

John Creel (WB3GXW) has been amateur radio operator since 1967, holds an Amateur Extra class license, and is an ARRL Life Member. He resides in Silver Spring, MD with his wife Debbie (N3LFM) and daughters Carolyn (N3UXZ) and Gina (N3ZQU). His mother, N3LFN, is also an amateur radio operator.

John has been the VE Test Coordinator for the Laurel ARC since 1990 and attends the National VEC conference in Gettysburg, PA. each year. His organization, enthusiasm, and integrity are unparalleled. He has dutifully coordinated the monthly test sessions in Laurel as well as sessions at hamfests (e.g. FarFest, Timonium), field days, and the at the training classes. The VE team that he heads is one of the largest monthly sessions in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

John owns and operates 2 meter (147.225+ PL156.7) and 70 cm (444.250+ PL156.7) repeaters which are well maintained and very family-friendly. Both repeaters have autopatches. He always is enthusiastic about making the repeaters available to the Laurel Amateur Radio Club (LARC) and other groups for nets and special events. On heavily traveled holidays and weekends

it is common to hear the repeater announcement 'Travelers and visitors are welcome to use the WB3GXW repeater...' with the autopatch being opened up to all.

John is an ARRL official bulletin station and regularly broadcasts ARRL Audio News, This Week in Amateur Radio, Amateur Radio Newsline, and The R.A.I.N Report. He is the first known station to broadcast the new ARRL Audio News broadcast in the Washington DC area. John is also very active in the Tri-County Amateur Radio club and is net control for the Tuesday night nets (147.180+ PL 156.7).

John takes the opportunity each year to demonstrate amateur radio to youth at a camp in Frederick, MD. He is a member of Montgomery County RACES and the trustee for a 440 Mhz repeater located at the Montgomery County Government building in Rockville, MD.

John Creel (WB3GXW) is an exemplary amateur radio operator. He has made significant contributions to the Amateur Radio Service and is an outstanding model of a public and community service volunteer.

### ***Do you have a nomination for FAR's Ham of the Month?***

Any licensed amateur radio operator in the Auto-Call subscription area who has contributed significantly to the amateur community can be nominated. Provide a narrative of 250 to 500 words describing the contributions of the nominee and forward to the FAR Ham of the Month nomination chairman, Tony Young, WA3YLO, at 12016 Long Ridge Lane, Bowie, MD 20715.

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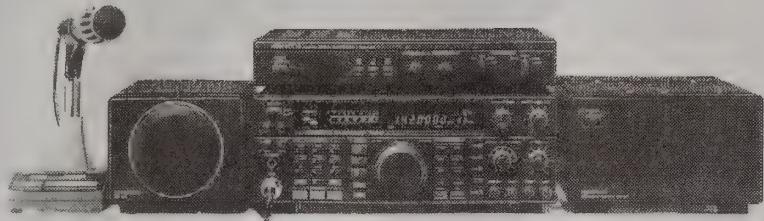
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Estate sales for Widows assistance handled by a FAR club will be published without cost.

Your full name and address must be provided with each ad but need not be published. No ads will be accepted over

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**John Queen, Auto-Call Editor  
755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736  
(301) 855-0198**

**FOR SALE:** Coaxial relay, 120V, \$5. Collins T-101, 50W modulation transformer, \$4. Triad 6.3V-20A filament transformer, \$8. MFJ 9406 -6 meter trnscvr, like new w/mike, manual \$125. Heathkit linear amplifier SB200 - 500 watts, 10 thru 80, \$225. Cushcraft R-5 vertical 10,12, 15, 17 & 20 at half cost, \$115. Fifty brass end-thread spokes used on mini beams, hybrid quads and top hats - free to first caller. Bag of capacitors: 2 Western Electric glass vacuum 5KV-5A, 2 Jeffers door knob (HV) 1-20KV 500 MMF, 1-1000 MM(HV)-1, .004-5K, misc. ceramics, \$5. Moving to apartment, thanks. Bus, W4EGU, Alexandria (703) 751-4037 [04/98]

**WANTED:** (Tube Type) Hi-Fi Equipments, LP records, Call: 703-680-5902, Fax: 703-730-9841. [09/98]

**FOR SALE:** Beam-Log Periodic KLM 10-30-7 LPA 10-30 MHZ continuous boom 30', turn radius 26', 70 lb Excellent condx, \$450.00. Clinton, Md area Bob Jeter K3RSJ (410) 315-9403 [05/98]

**FOR SALE:** Yaesu FT-727 2m/70cm HT with desktop charger and headset, \$225; JiM M-100 pre-

amp for HT \$75 (both for \$275); Yaesu FT-736 with optional 6 meter and keyer modules (operates only on 220 vac and 12vdc, otherwise nice - I'll include a 220/110 xfrmer) \$1300; Yaesu FT-757 Mark II HF xcvr, service manual, \$525; RF Concepts 4-310 430/440 MHz 30/100W amp/preamp \$175. Sig, NV7AA, signer@erols.com, (202) 712-4085, home/fax (202) 467-0053. [04/98]

**WANTED:** Drake receiver R7-A plus Noise Blanker NB7A, MS7 Speaker and 1800 Hz SSB filter for same. Also following accessories for the R4-C Receiver: Noise Blanker 4-NB, Speaker MS4 and 1500 Hz CW Filter. All equipment should be in working condition. Please contact Terry KD4GSW at E-mail: turbotp@erols.com or Phone: (703) 481-3191 after 5:00. [05/98]

**FOR SALE:** MULTI-TECH 224 external 300/1200/2400BPS modem with docs/pwr supply (17.3VAC/10.5VA & 27.5VAC/7.5VA) excellent condition - \$20.00; (410) 329-2255 home. [03/98]

**FOR SALE:** AEA PK-232MBX Data Controller with PC-Pakratt-II software, all cables/connectors

and documentation, excellent condition, used less than one hour - \$195.00; TIMEWAVE DSP59 PLUS Audio Noise Reduction Filter, excellent condition, used less than one hour - \$175.00; (410) 329-2255 home. [03/98]

**FOR SALE:** NEW (unused items) - TUCKER T-150 Low-Pass-Filter 2500 watts - 30MHz - \$75.00; YAESU MH-1B8 hand microphone \$30.00; ALPHA DELTA HV-2KW (5) lightning arrestors - \$33.00 each (all five for \$150.00); RG-213U 95% braid premium quality non-contaminating jacket (375' on spool) - \$125.00 TARGUS DELUXE UNIVERSAL CASE - padded portable computer/printer sections, accordion file pocket, zip-down workstation with pockets 16.5"W x 2.5"H x 12"D - \$120.00 (all the above are unused) - (410) 329-2255 home. [03/98]

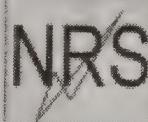
**WANTED:** Early pre-1980 microcomputers for museum collection. Also early microcomputer sales literature and magazines. KK4WW (540) 763-3311 or (540) 382-2935. [10/98]

#### AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE WEEKLY BROADCAST:

Listen to weekly amateur radio and related broadcasts professionally produced by The Amateur Radio Newsline, on the 146.88 repeater each Friday at 7 PM. The broadcasts are downloaded directly off of the Internet to the repeater just hours after they become available.

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73 Murray (K3BEQ) mgreen@erols.com



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[SWP]

**Mid-Atlantic Radio Club.** Become a part of one of the country's fastest growing vintage radio clubs. The Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club is an active group of radio collectors, restorers and historians. For a sample newsletter, write to Barry Zimmerman, MAARC Membership Chair, 5825 Woodwinds Circle, Frederick, MD 21703-7579. (301) 696-5561.

[SWP]

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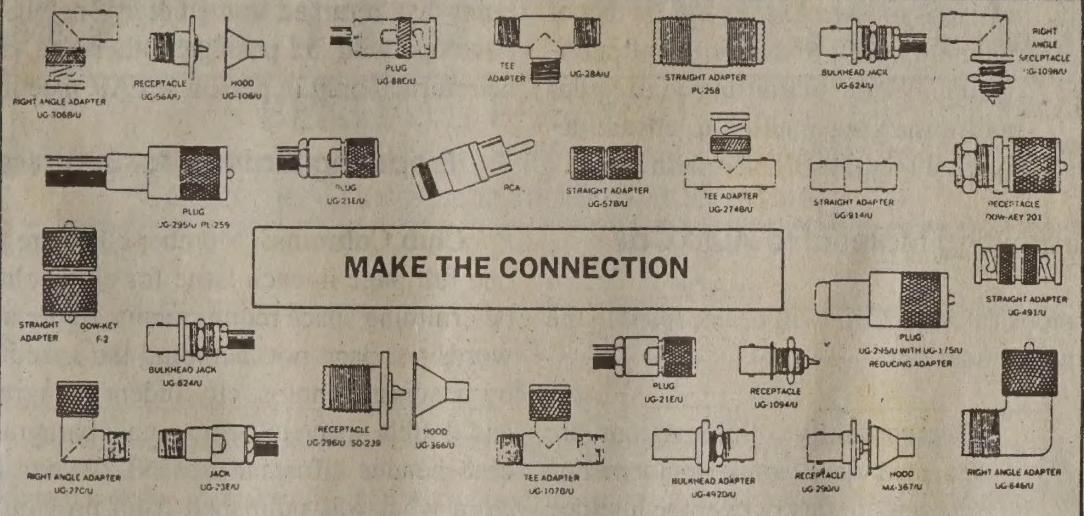
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**Deadline:** The deadline for ALL submissions to *Auto Call* is the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication. When submitting via regular mail, time your mailing to ensure delivery by the 1st of the month.

## Submitting Material to *Auto Call*

Submissions for *Auto Call* will be accepted in the following formats:



**Electronically:** Submissions are accepted via any of the major on line services directly or over the Internet. Use the format exactly as follows:

**Internet** - JohnQueen@AOL.com

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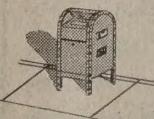
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**MCI Mail** - mbx: johnqueen@aol.com

**Prodigy** - johnqueen@aol.com



**Regular Mail:** Mail typewritten or computer generated hard copy to: John Queen, Editor, Auto Call Magazine, 755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736. Ensure that your printed material is dark enough for scanning.



**Computer Disk:** Submissions are accepted on 3.5" or 5.25" computer disk, in either Macintosh or MS-DOS format, using Word, WordPerfect, or standard ASCII text files. Write your name, telephone number, and club name on the disk. Submit graphic files (club logos, etc) in an EPS or TIFF format. Please verify the readability of your com-

puter files before sending. If you want your computer disk returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with .32 postage. Otherwise, disks will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.

## Preparing Material for Submission

**Club Columns:** Member clubs are allocated one full page in each issue for club columns. In determining space requirements, figure about 700 words per page not including the space taken up by headings, photos, etc. Indent paragraphs .25" and double space to begin a new paragraph. Send club header information ONLY when different from what was published from previous month. The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted material for space, content and/or applicability.

**Hamfests/Events:** Member clubs are allocated one full page per year to promote one club sponsored hamfest, convention, or special event. Submit clean black & white camera ready copy only by mail. Master copy should be in black ink on white paper and should be in proper page ratio, (Copy space is 7" wide by 9" high). Copy can be reduced or enlarged as necessary. Electronic submissions of Hamfest ads will not be accepted.

**Photographs:** The editor will select the best photograph submitted for the cover each month. Photographs should depict club members, club stations, or amateur radio related events that are current and noteworthy. Clubs may also submit photographs for inclusion with their club column. Photographs will be used in columns when space permits. Either B&W or color photos can be used. For each photograph submitted, write your name, phone number, and club name, along with a description of the photograph on a piece of paper, and tape it on the back of the photograph. Do not write on the back of your photo. If you want your photos returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, photos will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.



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# Area Club Meetings - April 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 BARC Montgomery	2 Anne Arundel	3 Mobileers Shenandoah	4 Green Mtn.
5 Kent Island	6 DOSARC	7 Antietam PGWA	8 FAR - MD Exp Post	9 AMRAD MADRAS Mid-Atlantic Mt. Vernon HEMARC Fauquier	10 VOA Vienna So. Maryland Alexandria	11 North Point
12 Metro Comm	13 Carroll Co. Potomac	14 Leisure Frederick Woodbridge	15 BARC Montgomery Goddard	16 Anne Arundel	17 Shenandoah	18 Capital City QCWA 91
19	20 OVHA Sterling Park	21 Antietam Arlington	22 Exp Post Moose Laurel	23 MADRAS St. Mary's	24 Central MD Vienna	25
26 Adventist	27 Calvert Green Mtn., T-MARC	28 Columbia	29 Carroll Co.	30		



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